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Russian President Vladimir Putin speaks during a nationally televised question-and-answer session in Moscow on Thursday.

RIA NOVOSTI, PRESIDENTIAL PRESS SERVICE/AP

For victims, telling the truth often comes with burden

By STEPHANIE MCCRUMMEN
The Washington Post

The war veteran wakes up at 11 a.m. and spends the afternoon alone studying, and so it is not until early evening, during her shift at the restaurant where she works as a waitress, that the first lie of the day is required. "Everything OK?" a colleague asks.

"It's fine," she says, and the lying is underway.

Lie after lie: This has been her life since coming home last year from Afghanistan — the daily maintenance of a thousand little fictions to keep everyone from finding out what happened over there. The 27-year-old Navy vet-

SEXUAL ASSAULT IN THE MILITARY

eran, who wants to be identified by only her middle name, Diana, lies to people from her unit, saying she came home early because she had a lump in her breast.

She lies to her parents, her friends and her boyfriend, who knows some of the story but not all of it.

She lies because she thinks she has to, because of the legal document she signed during her fourth month at Bagram Air Field, after she sneaked over to the hospital and asked to see the person who handles sexual assaults, after a nurse took Polaroid photos of bruises on her neck and scratches on her back, collected swabs and hair samples and put them in a brown paper bag.

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"The basic commandment of the Water Bureau was to provide clean, cold and constant water to its customers. And the premise behind that is we don't have pee in it."

— Portland, Ore., Water Bureau Administrator David Shaff, on a plan to drain the city's 7.5 million-gallon reservoir after a man urinated into it

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MILITARY

Obama's 'pivot' to Asia falls short

By DAVID NAKAMURA
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama's bid to focus U.S. attention on Asia has failed to meet the lofty expectations he set three years ago in a grand pronouncement that the new emphasis would become a pillar of his foreign policy.

The result, as Obama prepares to travel to the region next week, has been a loss of confidence among some U.S. allies about the administration's commitment at a time of escalating regional tensions. Relations between Japan and South Korea are at a low point not seen since World War II, and China has provoked both with aggressive maritime actions despite a personal plea to Beijing from Vice President Joe Biden in December.

"Relations have gone from being generally positive at the strategic level to one of extreme powers to extremely difficult," said Kurt Campbell, a former assistant secretary of state who helped conceive the Asia strategy. "It's a much more challenging strategic landscape."

In a glitzy rollout in fall 2011, Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton announced that the United States would "pivot" away from long, costly wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and ramp up engagement to meet China's rise.

Instead, during the past year, the administration has been drawn deeper into crises in traditional hot spots in the Middle East and Eastern Europe. Congressional Democrats blocked Obama's bid to speed up talks on a 12-nation Pacific free-trade pact at the core of a policy that aims to balance military realignment with economic initiatives.

And Obama canceled participation in two Asian summits because of the government shutdown last fall.

White House aides say they are confident that the president will re-energize his Asia strategy by visiting seven countries this year — Japan, South Korea, Malaysia and the Philippines next week and China, Myanmar and Australia in the fall. Obama met with the leaders of the three East Asian nations on the sidelines of a nuclear summit in Europe last month.



CAROLYN KASTER/AP

President Barack Obama speaks Wednesday in Oakdale, Pa.

"Showing up matters a lot in Asia. The good news is that it's pretty easily fixable," said Benjamin Rhodes, a deputy national security adviser. "We have the benefit of knowing what success will look like — and if we achieve it, people will think it was worth it."

Despite that optimism, there is a feeling outside the administration that the energy and enthusiasm that marked the launch of the policy have been lost with the departures early last year of Clinton and national security adviser Thomas Donilon. Their successors, John Kerry and Susan Rice, respectively, have been focused foremost on conflicts in Ukraine and Syria and a Middle East peace pact and Iran's nuclear program.

"For a lot of reasons, none egregiously negligent, it adds up to us not being there," said Michael O'Hanlon, a defense analyst at the Brookings Institution. "Perceptions are everything, and now the whole idea of the rebalance is at risk."

A few days into her tenure as the nation's top diplomat, Clinton held a dinner for her closest advisers on the ornate eighth floor of the State Department with some longtime Asia policy hands, including author Orville Schell.

The message was clear: After a decade of war, there would be a new emphasis. It was a view in sync with Obama's thinking. The president already had instructed his national security staff to conduct a review of the military's global presence.

The conclusion of the review, Donilon recalled in an interview, was that "at the very same time

that Asia was undergoing the most dramatic social and economic development in the history of the world, the United States was overwhelmingly focused on military efforts in the Middle East."

For a president with roots in Hawaii and Indonesia, a turn to Asia made sense. In February 2009, Clinton's first trip as secretary of state was to Asia, and Obama welcomed Japan's Taro Aso as his first foreign leader to visit the White House.

Underpinning the renewed focus on Asia was the realization that China was moving to fill the vacuum of U.S. inattention to the region. China's view in 2008 and 2009 was that an "arrogant" United States had been knocked down by the recession and "there's a new sheriff in town and it's China," said Campbell, Clinton's top Asia strategist.

On Obama's first Asia trip, in November 2009, Chinese President Hu Jintao embarrassed the White House by rejecting the administration's demands on China's currency manipulation and refusing to allow questions at a joint news conference.

"It turned into a metaphor for us supposedly kowtowing to the Chinese," recalled Jeffrey Bader, director of Asia affairs for the National Security Council from 2009 to 2011. "The White House was not going to let that narrative recur."

Clinton laid the groundwork for a more confrontational U.S. stance with China when, on a trip to Vietnam in July 2010, she declared that resolving a territorial dispute between Southeast Asian nations and China in the South China Sea was a "leading diplomatic priority."

By the following year, administration officials agreed it was time for a bold recalibration of their Asia policy.

As White House staffers plotted a presidential trip to Asia in fall 2011, Campbell arranged for Clinton to pen a cover story in Foreign Policy magazine.

Clinton's 5,600-word treatise, titled "America's Pacific Century," was published in October, a month before Obama's nine-day trip, and it was the first public signal of the administration's "pivot" — a word Clinton used three times — to the region.

A chief aim, aides said, was to enlist Beijing as a partner on the

global stage by demanding that it live up to its responsibilities as a rising world power.

Clinton also reaffirmed traditional alliances, pledged greater U.S. economic investment, emphasized democratic values and vowed to pursue new, multilateral organizations, especially in Southeast Asia, to mitigate conflicts.

The essay, followed by Obama's trip, aimed to "grab people by the lapels" and "communicate to them, 'This is what we really care about; this is what you should judge us on,'" Rhodes said.

Several Asia initiatives were ripening in different government agencies, and the White House packaged them together for the president to unveil.

Obama pledged in Hawaii that the U.S. would play a lead role in negotiations over the Trans-Pacific Partnership, a large-scale, multinational free-trade pact. In Australia, he announced plans for a rotating contingent of 2,500 Marines to be based in Darwin.

On his final stop, at the East Asia Summit in Bali, Indonesia, Obama made the biggest splash — announcing that Clinton would become the first U.S. secretary of state to visit the long-isolated nation of Burma in 50 years. The dramatic gesture was given the green light only after Obama called democratic opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi from Air Force One en route to Bali to wish her blessing.

A year later, in November 2012, Clinton made a second trip there, this time aboard Air Force One with Obama.

Since then, China has become convinced that the U.S. strategy is aimed primarily at containing its rising influence.

Obama, hoping for a fresh start with China's Xi Jinping, who succeeded Hu last year, invited him to the Sunnylands Estate in Rancho Mirage, Calif., in June — a setting picked for its relaxed atmosphere.

But in the fall, Beijing declared an air defense zone above contested waters in the East China Sea, provoking angry responses from Japan and South Korea.

Last week, during a visit to Beijing, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel traded barbs with his Chinese counterpart, who declared that China's military "can never be contained."

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MILITARY

Answers sought on Army transfers

By TOM VANDEN BROOK
USA Today

WASHINGTON—A prominent senator and persistent critic of the military's response to sexual assault is demanding data about the 588 soldiers the Army removed from sensitive posts after the military's sexual assault scandal prompted a re-screening.

Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., who chairs the Armed Services Committee's personnel panel, wrote to Lt. Gen. Howard Bromberg, the Army's top officer for personnel late Tuesday demanding information on the 588 soldiers whose status was first reported by USA Today.

"I am concerned that there has not been more public information about who these people are, the nature and degree of the disqualifying offenses, and the current status of these individuals," she wrote.

Bromberg had testified before Gillibrand's committee last week but offered little specific information about the cases. He noted that there were 10 categories of offenses that could have cost soldiers their jobs as recruiters, instructors or sexual assault counselors.

The vast majority have been reassigned, some to their old infantry or artillery units. Bromberg didn't mention that the Army is seeking to kick 79 of those soldiers out the military for good.

The Army has denied the paper's requests for details of the offenses that disqualified the soldiers, requiring it to file a federal Freedom of Information Act request. Gillibrand, whose legislation very nearly wrested commanders' authority to prosecute sex crimes, won't be so easily put off.

Her questions are polite but targeted: "Could you please provide me with the disqualifying offenses and tell me how many soldiers were disqualified under each category of offense and from what position?"

In a way, the Army is a victim of its own diligence. Unlike the other services, it screened more personnel and scrubbed them harder. Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel has asked the other services to consider the Army's approach and determine if it suits them.

After initially disqualifying five sailors, the Navy reconsidered and reassigned 151 personnel. The Air Force found two unfit for sensitive duty. The Marines cleared everybody they had screened.

Sailors rescue mom, daughter hiking in jungles of Guam

Stars and Stripes

Sailors from Andersen Air Force Base rescued a 44-year-old woman and her 11-year-old daughter from the jungles of Guam on Thursday after they became separated from friends and family on a spring break hiking trip, according to media reports.

They went missing in Yona on Wednesday evening while hiking

to Tarzan Falls, according to KUAM News Guam. The Navy, which operates the only rotary-wing assets on the island, was called to help, Navy officials said.

Sailors from Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 began search-and-rescue efforts around 11 p.m. Wednesday. At 8:50 a.m. Thursday, a Navy MH-60S helicopter recovered and transported the pair to U.S. Naval Hospital

Guam for treatment. Navy officials said any injuries were not believed to be life-threatening.

The incident is the 11th search-and-rescue mission for the squadron this year. The Navy worked in close concert with the Department of Homeland Security, Guam Fire Department and Police, the Department of Agriculture and local volunteers, KUAM reported.

"HSC-25 continually trains our

pilots and crews to handle any situation, any time day or night, whether on the water or on land," HSC-25 Cmdr. Gregory Leland said. "This rescue is a direct result of the skills our crews develop during combat training for deployed missions in and around the region, and put to use saving lives right here on Guam."

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MIDEAST

NATO gives Afghans \$6M in medical supplies

By MATT MILLHAM
Stars and Stripes

PIRMASENS, Germany — With fewer Western forces on the ground to backstop Afghan troops, the U.S. and NATO are rushing medical supplies to Afghanistan's police and army in anticipation of a violent fighting season.

NATO's training mission in Afghanistan just spent more than \$6 million on 325 ambulance kits, which began streaming into the country on cargo planes last month.

The kits contain roughly the same equipment found on U.S. Army ground ambulances, such as spine boards and intravenous fluids. The coalition has largely favored helicopters over ground evacuation in Afghanistan. For the most part, though, Afghan forces won't have that kind of air support once the coalition leaves.

Afghans are still developing their casualty evacuation system, said Air Force Col. Maria Guevara, training mission command surgeon. While they have a small fleet of helicopters that can be used for aerial medevac, "most of their movement is going to be by ground," she said.

The ambulance kits, which include supplies to outfit the variety of ambulances that have been donated to Afghan forces over the last year, are likely to be the last major purchase of medical supplies that NATO makes for Afghan troops, Guevara said. Afghan forces will now be expected to procure their own supplies.

The Afghan army and police are still learning the basics of running their supply systems, Guevara said.

"They're working on it — on how to identify their consumption



MATT MILLHAM/Stars and Stripes

Spc. Christopher Hill, of the U.S. Army Medical Materiel Center, Europe, runs a diagnostic test on a suction machine for delivery to Afghan forces. NATO purchased 325 ambulance kits to supply Afghan soldiers and police ahead of the fighting season.

rates, their fill rates," Guevara said. "And they're also working on their distribution process."

Even for the U.S. Army, which has vast experience in this arena, it was a challenge getting the supplies to Afghanistan on NATO's tight deadline.

U.S. Army Medical Materiel Center, Europe — the primary supplier of medical supplies for all military hospitals and operations in Europe, Africa and Afghanistan — typically takes four to six months to fill orders, and most aren't as large as what NATO

asked for, said Lt. Col. Sean McMurry, materiel management division chief.

With this order, NATO wanted \$5.3 million worth of supplies delivered in less than two months.

While the center is well-stocked for contingencies, it didn't have on hand many of the items NATO asked for, such as suction machines and splints, or in the quantity needed.

The center scraped the supplies together with help from other military agencies in Europe and the U.S. and its civilian suppliers,

some of which had to restart production lines to fill the order, McMurry said.

A critical shortage of intravenous fluids caused by production disruptions at three major U.S. manufacturers nearly derailed the entire project. Both saline and lactated Ringer's solution — items that are essential to treat the type of wounds that are common in combat — are essentially being rationed in the U.S.

Because the fluids were bound for Afghan and not American forces, the materiel center was

authorized to buy non-FDA-approved fluids from a British manufacturer in order to get the kits to Afghanistan before the spring fighting season.

"Had we not gone to the U.K. for that, we probably would still be sitting here today waiting to pack boxes," McMurry said.

The first batch of 60 kits shipped out on March 10; the last sets were being handed over to Afghan forces last week, Guevara said.

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Pakistani Taliban end cease-fire, setting back peace prospects

Bloomberg News

KARACHI, Pakistan — Pakistani Taliban militants said they were ending a cease-fire with Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's government, a blow to efforts to end more than a decade of violence in the nuclear-armed nation.

"The government failed to show any progress on our basic and just demands," Shahidullah Shahid, a spokesman for the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan, or TTP, said in an emailed statement Wednesday. "The decision not to extend the cease-fire has been taken unanimously after a meeting of the central council."

Sharif is seeking to reach a deal with Taliban militants operating near Afghanistan to bring peace and bolster his nation's

'I suspect the Taliban will now carry out attacks on the security forces, but not the people, so as to show that they are only punishing the forces for not accepting their demands.'

Rashid Ahmed Khan

University of Sargodha head of the international relations

\$225 billion economy. Any fresh violence by the Taliban will put pressure on the prime minister to mount military operations against them.

"I suspect the Taliban will now carry out attacks on the security forces, but not

the people, so as to show that they are only punishing the forces for not accepting their demands," said Rashid Ahmed Khan, head of the international relations department at the University of Sargodha in Punjab province. "This is definitely a setback to

the peace process."

The TTP had agreed to a cease-fire through April 10 to facilitate talks to end violence that has killed more than 50,000 people since 2001.

The Taliban have demanded the release of 300 people whom they say are family members of militants detained in government jails. The government has so far freed 19 prisoners. Militants are also demanding the establishment of a "peace-zone" for militants.

The Taliban have accused the government of killing more than 50 of their members detained in government jails despite the cease-fire and arresting more than 200 people for suspected links to the militants.

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MILITARY

Joint Chiefs to testify in support of pay curbs

By TOM PHILPOTT

Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, is giving the Joint Chiefs of Staff an unusual and potentially powerful opportunity to convince senators they risk a readiness crisis if they don't take significant steps this year to slow growth in military compensation.

All seven of the nation's top four-star officers are to testify May 6, a rare event. They are expected to urge support for pay and benefit curbs.

The scene will be in sharp contrast to pleadings for higher pay by service chiefs during earlier times of crisis for the all-volunteer military.

The Joint Chiefs hope to make clear the dilemma Congress has created by trying to shift compensation from the effects of the 2011 Budget Control Act of 2011, with its deep cuts to overall defense spending and its automatic enforcement tool of sequestration.

The chiefs have said their budgets for 2015 and beyond offer a balanced approach to absorbing those cuts because they include \$2.1 billion in compensation curbs next year and \$30 billion in pay and benefit savings over five years. If Congress won't back those, or offer alternative offsets, then the arbitrary across-the-board defense cuts of sequestration kick in.

The 28-star panel is expected to present fresh details on the consequences of that, for force structure, unit training, equipment and facility maintenance, worldwide operations and overall readiness.

Levin also has invited a second panel, of military association presidents, to testify. At least some of them will oppose any rise in troop or retiree out-of-pocket costs. To date, the most influential lawmakers on personnel matters are embracing that message, and shrugging off the warnings of defense civilian and military leaders.

Chairmen and ranking members of the military personnel subcommittee — Sens. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., and Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., Reps. Joe Wilson, R-S.C., and Susan Davis, D-Calif. — have suggested in recent hearings they will oppose any curbs on compensation.

The Pentagon proposals they bristle at would:

- Cap military pay raises for several more years, starting with a 1 percent raise cap in January 2015 to match the 2014 increase.

MILITARY UPDATE

2015 to match the 2014 increase.

- Dampen increases in basic allowances for housing until BAH recipients, on average, pay 5 percent of rental costs out of pocket.

- Consolidate TRICARE health insurance options into a preferred provider network that would have new fees and also higher fees.

- Make a phased cut in taxpayer support of commissaries so average savings on groceries drop from 30 percent to 10 percent.

The Military Coalition, an umbrella group of 33 associations and veteran groups, has urged lawmakers to reject this "piecemeal" approach to curbing compensation and await the recommendations of the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission due next February.

Retired Air Force Col. Mike Hayden, testifying on behalf of The Military Coalition before the House military personnel subcommittee, lauded the commission's "holistic" approach to pay reform, and dinged Pentagon initiatives as just transferring more costs onto "the backs of the beneficiaries [to] free up additional funding for other priorities within the department."

Davis asked Hayden whether it "makes a difference" if it's the Pentagon this year recommending changes that affect quality of life for military families or if it's an independent commission doing so next year.

"The difference is their charter. They are not looking at a budget-cutting drill, which we definitely is," Hayden said, pointing to the DOD's budget.

Also, commission members have given assurances their priority is not to cut pay and benefits but to make military compensation more efficient and possibly provide better benefits, Hayden said. That "could end up improving retention and recruiting, which is the overall driver for strong readiness."

The Pentagon proposal drawing the harshest criticism from lawmakers and family advocates would lower the commissary appropriation from \$1.4 billion down to \$400 million over three years. Wilson praised current shopper savings and also the jobs commissaries provide for family members.

"It's unique and simply can't be recreated," Wilson said.

Even military exchange executives reacted with alarm to a first draft of the legislative proposal to implement commissary cuts, warning the entire military resale system could be at risk. That proposal is being modified. By mid-April, lawmakers still didn't have bill language to consider.

In a March 26 memo, acting Deputy Secretary of Defense Christine Fox described the department's scramble to shape a legislative proposal "that stands the greatest chance of enactment on a complex topic with the potential to impact not only our service members, their families and retirees, but also the exchange system and MWR (morale, welfare and recreation) funds" which are exchange profits used for on-base,

quality-of-life programs.

Fox said the revised proposal would make two "significant changes to current statute" governing commissaries: lift one restriction that goods must be sold at cost, and another that commissaries can sell only brand names.

"These two changes will provide ... enough price and product flexibility," Fox wrote, for commissaries to save \$200 million in fiscal 2015.

Otherwise, current store operations should be sustained, she said, while the department reviews "what additional changes to statute may be required" to make the Defense Commissary Agency self-sustaining even with its annual appropriation cut by \$1 billion.

"This review should consider ... having commissaries adopt an

Exchange-like business model and other options for consolidation of commissary and Exchange functions," Fox wrote.

Hayden warned that if shopper savings fall to 10 percent, the announced target, patrons will go elsewhere and stores will close. Defense officials have said that's not the intent but they don't dispute the possibility.

That angers family advocates. Kathleen Moakler, with the National Military Family Association, told the Senate subcommittee that for every dollar spent to run commissaries last year, "military families realized two dollars in savings. Why are we messing with a successful system?"

To comment, write Military Update, P.O. Box 231111, Centerville, VA, or email milupdate@aol.com or twitter: Tom Philpott @Military_Update.

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UKRAINE UNREST

US forces to stay in Poland until end of '14

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

The U.S. Air Force will maintain an enhanced presence in Poland for the remainder of the year as part of an effort to reassure allies in the region alarmed by Russian aggression in neighboring Ukraine, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel said Thursday.

Hagel also urged allies to contribute to the U.S. air detachment mission in Poland, where U.S. F-16s and about 200 troops have maintained a steady presence since the start of the crisis in Ukraine.

"We're committed to maintaining that augmented presence to the end of the year," Hagel said during a joint news conference at the Pentagon with Polish Defense Minister Tomasz Siemoniak.

The U.S. and Poland also will cooperate more in other areas with an emphasis on rotational missions and exercises, Hagel said. Other measures in the works include closer collaboration between U.S. and Polish special operations forces, additional Air Force training initiatives and pressing on with the current air detachment program and missile defense efforts.

"We should take advantage of the opportunity to work more closely," Hagel said.

Since Russia's annexation of Ukraine's Crimea peninsula, allies in eastern Europe, long wary of Russian intentions in the region, have watched events unfold with growing unease.

To reassure Poland and other allies in the east, the U.S. quickly bolstered its presence in the region, including adding rotations of F-16s in Poland for training missions and bolstering air policing over the Baltics.

NATO surveillance aircraft also have been deployed to Poland and Romania to monitor events in Ukraine. The USS Donald Cook has been deployed to the Black Sea.

Moscow has repeatedly assured the U.S. and NATO that it has no intention of invading eastern Ukraine. However, on Thursday, President Vladimir Putin



Ukrainian soldiers are seen through the windshield of a military vehicle bearing bullet holes on Thursday in a Ukrainian National Guard base stormed the night before in Mariupol, Ukraine. Three pro-Russian protesters were killed and 13 injured during an attempted raid of the base, Ukrainian authorities said.

said he had the authority to use force, but hoped that would not be necessary.

On Wednesday, NATO took additional measures aimed at reassuring allies, focused mainly on an intensification of steps already underway: ramping up of NATO's air policing mission over the Baltics and the deployment of more allied ships into the Baltic Sea and eastern Mediterranean. More training missions and exercises also are in the works.

The U.S. also has offered additional staff to assist NATO with updating its defense plans, Hagel said.

The next step will be for allies to make troop contributions for the new effort in the east and generate a deployment schedule.

Hagel did not offer specific details about how the U.S. will contribute to those efforts, noting that plans were still being crafted.

Meanwhile, the U.S. also will supply Ukraine military and border control units with a range of supplies such as medical equipment, helmets, and water purification systems, Hagel said.

In light of Russian aggression in Ukraine, Poland has no choice but to invest more in defense and

forge closer ties with the U.S., Siemoniak said.

"Things must not be taken for granted," he said. "We want to watch our interest and we are making a significant effort to modernize our forces. There is no other way for us to guarantee our own security."

When asked if he was concerned Russia could aim to strike out against others in the region, Hagel did not rule out such a move.

"We have to look, based on past actions, at every possibility," Hagel said.

vandiver.john@stripes.com

Agreement to ease tensions is reached

The Associated Press

The turmoil in Ukraine dominated the European landscape Thursday high-level talks were held in Geneva as three protesters were killed in a clash in southern Ukraine.

In Geneva, diplomats from the United States, European Union, Russia and Ukraine reached agreement after marathon talks Thursday on immediate steps to ease the crisis.

The tentative agreement puts on hold — for now at least — additional economic sanctions the West had prepared to impose on Russia if the talks were fruitless. And that will ease pressure both on Moscow and nervous European Union nations that depend on Russia for their energy.

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry called the deal the result of a "good day's work" but emphasized that the words on paper must be followed by concrete actions. He said he had warned Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov that Moscow would soon feel the brunt of new sanctions should it not follow through on its commitments under the agreement.

The agreement, reached after seven hours of negotiation in Geneva, requires all sides to refrain from violence, intimidation or provocative actions.

It calls for the disarming of all illegally armed groups and for control of buildings seized by pro-Russian separatists to be turned back to authorities.

It also gives amnesty to protesters who comply with the demands, except those found guilty of capital crimes.

In Ukraine, three pro-Russian protesters were killed and 13 injured during an attempted raid overnight on a Ukrainian National Guard base in the Black Sea port of Mariupol, Ukraine's authorities said.

The Interior Ministry said a mob of around 300 people armed with stun grenades and firebombs were involved in the bloodiest episode to date in the insurgency.

Putin: Russia may invade Ukraine to protect locals

By SERGEY L. LOIKO
Los Angeles Times

MOSCOW — Russia may invade southeast Ukraine to protect the local population, President Vladimir Putin said Thursday.

Speaking live at his annual call-in show in a Moscow television studio, Putin implied he reserves the right to move Russian troops into the neighboring country on behalf of pro-Russian residents.

"We know quite well that we must do our best to protect their rights and help them independently decide their fate and we will struggle for that," Putin said. "I remind you that the Federation Council of Russia (the upper

house of Parliament) empowered the president to use the armed forces in Ukraine."

But Putin added that he hoped he would not have to resort to that.

Putin's threat suggests that Russia's armed intervention in Ukraine is a looming reality, Ukrainian political scientist Vadim Karasyov said.

"Today Putin in fact set up an ultimatum for Kiev to either allow a wide federalization of Ukraine with vast powers for eastern regions allowing Moscow to regain its political and economic control over them without formally annexing them, or to face a full-scale armed invasion resulting from which Moscow will establish

its military control over at least the southeast of Ukraine," Karasyov, director of Kiev-based Institute for Global Strategies, said in a phone interview.

"He made his terms quite clear today,"

Putin also reiterated his position that the southeast regions of Ukraine for centuries were Russian territories called Novorossiya or New Russia, and it was the Bolshevik leadership in the early 20th century that handed those regions over to the newly formed Soviet Ukraine.

Putin lashed out at the lack of democracy and attacks on opposition candidates in the course of the current presidential campaign in Ukraine and refused to

recognize the legitimacy of the interim government in Kiev.

"We consider the current Ukraine authorities illegitimate as they have no national mandate to run the country," Putin said.

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MILITARY

Say what?

A sample of reader comments from stripes.com



Taking flak on benefits cuts

In April 9 testimony, Sgt. Maj. of the Marine Corps Michael Barrett told lawmakers that Marines were more concerned about readiness than pay and benefits. A social media firestorm ensued, and Barrett wrote an open letter to Marines saying he was misunderstood, but that personnel costs must be reined in.

Readers respond:

[Congress was] just looking for some sort of permission. They needed someone to go along with it, someone to quote (NOT an elected official, not subject to political parties) to the people when we come to hold them accountable.

— Jim Stevens

Ending entitlements is always unpopular but this guy had it right. We are an entitlement military that whine and whine and whine... I for one am among many who are just sick and tired of hearing the whining and support cutting military benefits even though it will directly affect me and my family.

— Jay

A job that pays its employees to live comfortably is a must. Our military will attract higher qualified men and women if the pay is reasonable. These people in the military have families and need to know while they are away their family is taken care of.

— Michael Macias

This guy needs a reality check. Right now we have more military families living off food stamps, welfare, WIC and other programs because they aren't paid enough to put food on the table, clothes on the back of their children and he wants to lower their pay.

— Annette Mayr

"Marines don't run around [asking] about compensation, benefits, retirement modernization. That's not on their minds." That's because the only Marines who are allowed to speak with you are the brainwashed ones who have been given preloaded questions that were devised by SMCs and Officers.

— Chris Stiffler

Join the fray at:
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SCREENSHOT/YouTube.com

This screenshot from a video on YouTube reportedly shows Syrian rebels using U.S.-made TOW, or Tube-launched, Optically-tracked, Wire-guided, anti-tank missiles.

Syrian rebel fighters obtain US-made anti-tank missiles

By KAREN DEYOUNG
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Syria's opposition fighters have been supplied with U.S.-made anti-tank missiles, the first time a major American weapons system has appeared in rebel hands.

It is unclear how the rebels obtained the wire-guided missiles, which are capable of penetrating heavy armor and fortifications and are standard in the U.S. military arsenal. The United States has sold them in the past to Turkey, among other countries, and the Pentagon approved the sale of 15,000 of the weapons to Saudi Arabia in December. Both countries aid Syrian opposition groups.

U.S. officials declined to discuss the origin of the weapons but did not dispute that the rebels have them.

Their appearance on the ground in Syria coincides with a U.S. commitment this year to escalate a CIA-run program to supply and train vetted "moderate" rebel groups, and to improve coordination with other opposition backers.

"The United States is committed to building the capacity of the moderate opposition, including through the provision of assistance to vetted members of the moderate armed opposition," National Security Council spokeswoman Bernadette Meehan said. "As we have said, we are not going to detail every single type of our assistance."

Videos showing rebels using the weapons were first uploaded to YouTube between April 1 and 5 by Harakat Hazm, a moderate insurgent splinter group, according to Charles Lister, a visiting fellow at the Brookings Doha Center, who was among the first to identify the so-called TOW, or Tube-launched, Optically-tracked,

Wire-guided, anti-tank missiles.

In an article published last week by Jane's Defense Weekly, Lister noted that any country that transferred U.S. weapons to notify parties was required to notify the United States and receive its approval.

The United States secretly supplied hundreds of TOWs to Iran during the Reagan administra-

tion's arms-for-hostages arrangement in the 1980s. But Lister noted that the weapons shown in the newly released videos appear in good condition and with configurations different from the 1980s version.

Iran is a principal backer of Syrian President Bashar Assad's government, the other side in the civil war.

Commissioning delayed for USS North Dakota

GROTON, Conn. — The commissioning of the \$2.6 billion submarine that will become the USS North Dakota has been postponed because of issues with the design of the bow and component parts, the Navy said Wednesday.

The attack submarine was christened in November at the shipyard of Navy contractor Electric Boat in Groton. It had been scheduled to join the fleet with a commissioning ceremony May 31.

Colleen O'Rourke, a Washington-based spokeswoman for Naval Sea Systems Command, said the cause of the problems remains under investigation and it is not clear which contractor might be responsible. A new date for the commissioning ceremony has not been set.

Militia leader pleads guilty to identity theft

MINNEAPOLIS — A self-described militia commander from Minnesota who was charged with stealing identification information from members of his former Army unit at Fort Bragg in North Carolina has pleaded guilty to identity theft.

Prosecutors said Keith Michael Novak planned to use the stolen information to make fake IDs for members of his militia, the 44th Spatha Libertas. He entered his guilty plea Monday on the single count in federal court in Minneapolis as part of a plea agreement, according to court papers. Judge Patrick Schiltz ordered that he remain in custody. A sentencing date has not been set.

From The Associated Press

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REMEMBERING WWII



Cows graze near an American flag that marks the spot where an American B-17 bomber crashed in a field in Fouleng, Belgium, on April 13, 1944.

Belgians recall US bomber shot down in 1944

Town holds commemoration; families tend American graves

By MATT MILLHAM
Stars and Stripes

FOULENG, Belgium — Some townspeople here still remember that day in April 1944 when a burning American B-17 screamed low overhead, crashed and exploded in a nearby field.

Crippled by German flak, the bomber sailed like a flaming arrow into ground now occupied by dozens of grazing cows. Antonio De la Serna, who was 11 when he witnessed the crash, shudders when recalling the sputtering roar of the dying engines.

"We were quite afraid," he said.

Seven decades later, the town of Fouleng celebrates that day as if it were a holiday. Four Americans bailed out before impact. One was captured by the Germans; three were rescued by local residents. It was the villagers' first brush with the forces that would, five months later, liberate Belgium.

"The reason we are here in Fouleng is that we all have a duty to remember," Mayor Christian Leclercq said in a ceremony Sunday marking 70 years to the day that the Flying Fortress crashed here. "For you Americans, it is to show your affection to the service-members who defended the country. For us Belgians, it is to thank the Americans for joining World War II against the invasion of the Nazis."

The commemoration drew at least 100 people — the best-attended event marking the crash since a church service in 1944.

Those numbers were driven largely by the return of Troy Hollar, 94, the sole surviving member of that ill-fated flight, and of more

‘For us Belgians, it is to thank the Americans for joining World War II against the invasion of the Nazis.’

Mayor Christian Leclercq
Fouleng

than 20 family members of the crew.

Time is also a critical factor.

Commemorations across the continent are pulling out all the stops this year to mark the 70th anniversary of the last full year of World War II, with an expectation that by the next major milestone in five years there might not be many WWII veterans to celebrate with.

The Netherlands American Cemetery, where 8,301 U.S. servicemen from World War II are buried, is the second-most visited American cemetery in Europe — only Normandy gets more traffic. Yet despite healthy attendance of between 250,000 and 300,000 visitors annually, only three veterans of the war have visited in the last year, said Richard Arsenault, the cemetery's assistant superintendent.

Not long ago, much of his time was spent accommodating veterans and their direct descendants.

"But now we realize that we are



PHOTOS BY MATT MILLHAM/Stars and Stripes

Troy Hollar, center, speaks with an American airmen moments before he is granted honorary citizenship in the village of Silly (Fouleng), Belgium, where his B-17 bomber crashed in World War II. Hollar and three others survived, bailing out before the plane hit the ground.



Ernest Schrasser, who cares for the grave of Staff Sgt. Raymond Marz at the Netherlands American Cemetery in Margraten, shows a picture of his parents undertaking the same task. Schrasser's father adopted the grave in 1946, and the job of caring for it has been in the family ever since.

getting less," he said. Visits by the siblings of World War II veterans also are in steep decline; same, too, for their children.

"We are getting a lot of, 'He was our great uncle,' or things like that," Arsenault said.

Still, interest in the cemetery has not waned. Numerous groups, many of them made up of World War II enthusiasts from around Europe, jostle to get their events on the cemetery's calendar.

The crush is even more severe in Normandy, a large region of

northern France where tens of thousands of Allied troops landed on five widely spread beaches on June 6, 1944, to establish the foothold that would lead to Germany's defeat. Accommodations at local hotels have long been booked solid for the days of parades, fireworks, re-enactments and visits by world leaders that will commemorate the largest amphibious assault in history.

There are scores — if not hundreds — of other events around the Continent over the next year,

leading up to the 70th anniversary on May 8, 2015, of the Allied Victory in Europe. Many are organized by local groups and not much publicized. Others draw huge crowds and celebrities.

On April 28, a group dedicated to preserving the history of Exercise Tiger — a large-scale rehearsal for the D-Day invasion of Normandy — will hold a memorial service in honor of the 946 American servicemen who died at Slapton Sands in Devon, England.

SEE BELGIANS ON PAGE 9

REMEMBERING WWII

Families bound by aviators most never knew

By MATT MILLHAM
Stars and Stripes

MARGRATEN, Netherlands — Lois O'Keefe touched the ghostly white marble of her father's grave marker for the first time Saturday — one day shy of the 70th anniversary of his death.

She never knew the man, never met him. He died a day before she was born, shot down by German forces over Belgium during World War II.

Through his death, she's become part of a growing ad hoc family of surviving family members whose lineages all trace back to that one flight.

O'Keefe was among nearly two dozen members of this informal clan that arrived in Europe last week to visit the graves of relatives and walk in the footsteps of the crash survivors.

"It both closes the loop in terms of seeing his grave and knowing where he is, and also opens another channel in my life to all of these people who have the same experiences, some of whom may have some memories of my birth father," said O'Keefe, who was adopted as a baby.

Five other men died with her father, Calvin Anthes, when their B-17 Flying Fortress was downed by German flak guns on April 13, 1944: Lloyd Brady, James Lavin, Louis Benton, James Malone and Raymond Marz.

Four months hailed out and survived the war: Charles Johnson, Harold Ashman, Edward Price and Troy Hollar.

Hollar, now 94, is the sole remaining member of the crew and

'You just try to put yourself in their place — 20-, 21-, 23-year-old guys — the courage that they have just blows you away.'

Harold Ashman Jr.
son of one of those who made it out of the bomber that was shot down over Belgium

a conduit to a past his unofficial family wants to know more about.

He doesn't talk much about the war, he said. When his family asked him about it, "I told them I didn't do anything different than what 10 million other guys did," he said.

But on Sunday, he opened up a bit as he, his children and relatives of some of his former crew mates took part in a memorial ceremony in Fouleng, Belgium, honoring the crewmembers.

A handful of witnesses to the crash shared their memories with Hollar, who said he remembered parachuting into a tree and getting secreted away by a member of the Belgian Resistance.

Harold Ashman Jr., son of one of those who made it out of the plane, was there, too, walking the same ground his father parachuted onto 70 years ago.

"It means a great deal" to be here, Ashman said, his voice shaking slightly.



MATT MILLHAM/Stars and Stripes

Richard Arsenault, assistant superintendent of the Netherlands American Cemetery and Memorial in Margraten, explains the markings on the headstone of Calvin Anthes to Anthes' daughter, Lois O'Keefe, who was born a day after her father died. Anthes and five other airmen died April 13, 1944, after their B-17 bomber was hit by German flak and crashed in Fouleng, Belgium.

It made him think of what his father and all the other men who fought in World War II went

through. "You just try to put yourself in their place — 20-, 21-, 23-year-old

guys — the courage that they have just blows you away." millham.matthew@stripes.com

Belgians: Many towns marking 70th anniversary of war events

FROM PAGE 8

On May 18, Britain's Prince Harry goes to Italy to commemorate four major battles between January and May 1944 in which nearly a quarter-million Allied troops from Britain, the United States, Poland, India, France and New Zealand took part. Referred to by some as the Stalingrad of the Italian front, the fourth battle ended with the liberation of Monte Cassino and opened a passage for the Allies to advance on Rome.

Celebrations across France will dominate much of the late spring and early summer, starting with the Normandy invasion in June and continuing with the liberation of Cherbourg June 26, Caen on July 9, and scores of other lesser-known places along the route to Paris, which was retaken by friendly forces on Aug. 25, 1944.

In Belgium, where Fouleng held the memorial ceremony Sunday, the real celebration kicks off in September to mark the country's liberation. From Sept. 5-7, the city of Mons will host "Tanks in Town," featuring a large collection of vintage armor to commemorate its liberation by forces from the U.S. 3rd Armored Division.

The Netherlands American Cemetery and Memorial will host to two concerts and a film

from Sept. 12-14 to commemorate the country's liberation.

Also starting Sept. 14, the Belgians and Dutch launch a week of celebrations marking Operation Market Garden, the Allies' unsuccessful attempt to bring the war to an early end depicted in the classic war film "A Bridge Too Far." Though the schedule isn't set, it's expected to include convoys of some 600 vintage military vehicles that will drive from Leogoldsburg, Belgium, to Veghel, Netherlands on Sept. 14 and from Veghel to Nijmegen, Netherlands, on Sept. 20.

After that, the winter is peppered with events in remembrance of the Battle of the Bulge, the German counteroffensive that left some 19,000 Americans dead and many more wounded or captured. Thousands of people, many in vintage uniforms, are expected to take part in road marches and reenactments with special attention placed on the feats of the American 101st and 82nd Airborne Divisions.

Those events are expected to be bigger than usual because, for reenactors and other World War II enthusiasts, "if the year ends in a five or a zero, they're going to want to be part of it," Arsenault said.

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MILITARY

Military victims of sexual assault face agonizing choice:

Speak up or stay silent

FROM FRONT PAGE

After that, she was handed Defense Department Form 2910 and told she had two choices for reporting rape.

She could file an unrestricted report, in which both she and the alleged offender, whom Diana said was her boss, would be named and that would launch an investigation.

Or she could file what is called a restricted report to preserve her anonymity. No names. No investigation. No one

would know except doctors and a few specified others who did not include family, friends or colleagues.

As Diana understood it, it was a promise that the U.S. military was making to her and she was making to the U.S. military: This will be our secret.

The problem of sexual assault in the military is well known. What is less well understood is the extent to which the Pentagon has officially embraced secrecy and anonymity as a means of dealing with the problem, which has been especially rampant during the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

A recent Department of Veterans Affairs survey found that one in four women deployed to those wars said they experienced sexual assault, defined as any unwanted contact from groping to rape.

At the same time, at least 5,274 restricted reports of sexual assault have been filed since Congress established the option in 2005, according to Pentagon figures. Restricted reports have also made up an ever-larger percentage of the total sexual assault reports filed each year, increasing from 14 percent of the total in 2005 to nearly 25 percent in 2012.

Pentagon officials cite those rising numbers as a success, saying that victims might not have filed reports at all or sought medical help without the option of complete anonymity.

"We knew there were people not reporting because they did not want an investigation, who wanted to remain a little bit hidden, wanted to keep it personal, but also wanted access to medical care," said Catherine Wilkinson, a spokeswoman for the Pentagon's Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office. "So restricted reporting opens the door for them to start healing while maintaining their privacy."

That is how the Pentagon sees it. Diana sees it differently.

In the 15 months since she chose the restricted reporting option, she has come to see how the decision has defined her life in ways that she never imagined, a life she can now divide by two dates.

July 5, 2012: "Ready to go," she had written on her Pre-deployment Psych Survey.

Dec. 19, 2012: "I elect Restricted Reporting and have decided to confidentially report that I am a victim of sexual assault," read the box she initialed on the form.

The triggers

Fifteen months later, in a suburb of a Southern state, Diana's boyfriend is holding a black-and-white photograph against the wall of their living room.

"How high do you want this?" he asks. He deployed with her and knows what happened only in general terms.

"That's good," says Diana, glancing over from the couch, where she is studying for a nursing exam at the end of the month.

Now the boyfriend is hammering, not realizing that the sight of tools, which he often leaves on the kitchen counter, makes her anxious. He doesn't know exactly why she sleeps so late or why she stopped running, which she tells him is because she lost her iPod.

"It's constant," she says later, referring to the necessary evasions.

She is driving to pick up her new identification card at a veterans' hospital, where there are always things to avoid. She parks on the top floor of the garage because she doesn't like confined spaces. She almost always wears a baseball cap pulled snug over her hair in case she runs into anyone from her unit.

While veterans often cluster in the hallways and talk, she never does that, walking quickly without saying anything. In the elevator, she is quiet when an elderly man and a woman get on, and now, as the doors are shutting and a middle-age man slips in, she stares at the floor.

He has dark hair and a buzz cut, and he stands right next to Diana, who is sweating visibly. She doesn't look at him.

She exhales. Circles of sweat are forming on her shirt.

"All right," she whispers to herself and exhales again.

Before and after

She was never a nervous person, never one to avoid people. She traveled abroad alone. She enlisted in the Navy for the college money and what she imagined would be adventure. She moved up in rank rela-

tively quickly and began aiming for an elite job with a Special Operations unit, doing 13-mile training runs. When her support unit got orders to deploy to Afghanistan, she was thrilled.

At Bagram, she honed her tactics for dealing with the testosterone-driven world of the military at war.

When she went running, she wore baggy sweats and borrowed a 9mm. When possible, she locked doors behind her. She developed rules for handling crude comments.

"No one wants to work with a woman you can't be yourself around because you think she's going to report you," she explained. "If you were the prude, you wouldn't get to go to any of the cool outposts, the exciting places."

She got the interview for the Special Operations job. Except as all that was happening, she was running out of ways to handle her boss.

SEE PAGE 11



MILITARY

FROM PAGE 10

It had started with what she thought was a normal concern for her well-being. How are you doing he would write her in emails; how are you holding up? She thought nothing of it; he was married with children. Soon, her 6-foot-tall, slightly paunchy middle-age boss was following her around constantly. He started asking her why she was ignoring him, she said, and why she didn't seem to like him.

Then one night she was alone in her workshop. It had a coded cipher lock on the door, but now someone was coming in. Of course her boss had the code. She remembers him hitting the back of her head first. She tried to scream, but then a hand was on her throat. Then a hand was crushing the left side of her face, her jaw and her mouth. Then she was staring at hammers and drills on the wall, out of reach.

He left. She stayed a while because maybe he was still by the door. Then she went back to her room. It was December, cold and snowing, and she remembers how quiet everything was outside. She said she remembers the sound of her own steps.

Every morning, she had to face her boss at muster, where he called her name like normal and she tried to answer like normal even though she hadn't slept or eaten.

After a few days, she became terrified about diseases and sneaked over to the emergency room at Bagram's main hospital.

She asked to see the person who handled sexual assaults. It was the first time she had said the phrase out loud. An attendant quickly ushered her into a special exam room.

An hour passed before the nurse arrived with the rape kit and asked her to undress. After the exam — after the nurse took the Polaroid photos of bruises on her neck and scratches on her back, after she drew blood, plucked hairs, scraped under Diana's fingernails and took the swab — the sexual assault person came in.

She seemed nervous to Diana — saying "I'm so sorry" over and over — and handed her Form 2910 and a pen. She explained that there were two choices for reporting rape.

Nearly two hours had passed, and Diana knew she had to get back to work. Her boss would be looking for her.

Option one was unrestricted reporting — "Reporting a Crime Which Is Investigated," as the form read. Diana would be named. Her boss would be named. Her chain of command would be notified. An investigation would be launched, and there was the possibility of a military trial. The full range of victim protection would be available.

Option two was restricted reporting — "Confidentially Reporting a Crime Which Is Not Investigated," the heading on the form read. Diana could receive medical treatment, "but law enforcement and my command will NOT be notified," the form read. "My report will NOT trigger an investigation; therefore no action will be taken against the offender(s) as the result of my report."

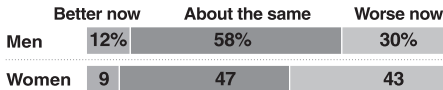
There was a blur of nine provisions spread across two pages. No one could know except people listed on the next page, said one. Another said that evidence would be destroyed after one year and "no longer available for any future investigation or prosecution efforts" unless the victim changed to an unrestricted report during that time. Another said, "I understand that if I talk about my sex-

POLL Washington Post-Kaiser Family Foundation poll

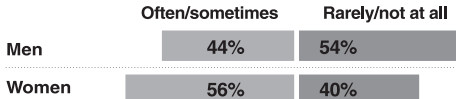
Female troops face heightened mental and family stress

Female veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars have returned in worse mental health than their male counterparts and experience family strife more frequently.

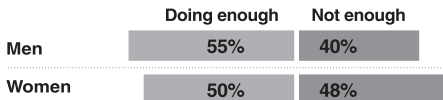
Q: Comparing your mental and emotional health now with before the wars, would you say it is:



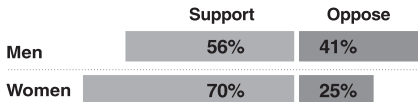
Q: How often have you personally experienced relationship problems with your spouse as a result of your military service?



Q: Do you think the military is or is not doing enough to prevent sexual assault among servicemembers?



Q: Do you support or oppose allowing women in the military to serve in ground units that engage in close combat?



Other/no opinion not shown.

Full results, methods, exact question wording and order are available at washingtonpost.com/polls.

SOURCE: This Washington Post-Kaiser Family Foundation poll was conducted by telephone Aug. 1-Dec. 15, 2013, among a random sample of 819 adults who served in the Iraq or Afghanistan wars since Sept. 11, 2001. Interviews were conducted on land lines and cellphones. The results have a margin of sampling error of plus or minus five percentage points. Sampling, data collection and tabulation by SSRS of Media, Pa.

THE WASHINGTON POST

ual assault to anyone other than those under the 'Restricted Reporting' option ... it may be reported to my command and law enforcement which could lead to an investigation." The last provision was that if she didn't choose a reporting option "at this time," her commander and investigators would be notified.

Diana stared at those words. The young woman was waiting. The nurse was filling out forms, and Diana watched her put the rape kit in a brown paper bag, staple it and drop it into a desk drawer next to some Tootsie Pops. She remembers a rush of thoughts:

No one would believe her. The possibility of a trial, much less a conviction, was

remote. Her family would be dragged into it. Her career in the military, the elite job — all of that would be over. She had to get out of there.

She started signing. She was so nervous that at first she signed the wrong box, then scratched it out and signed her initials next to the words "Restricted Reporting." Yes to anonymity, yes to secrecy, yes to whatever else it said.

She left the hospital with a copy of the form and went straight back to her room. She stuck it on a shelf with a stack of other papers, between a copy of Marie Claire and a fitness magazine her dad had sent.

Hiding

The form is in the black file box in the spare closet of the spare bedroom, where she also keeps her old uniforms, medals, promotion papers and every other reminder of who she was, all of it in closed boxes behind closed doors.

The rest of the house is half-empty. The walls are mostly blank except for the black-and-white pictures of national parks that her boyfriend is hammering up and a few snapshots of Diana's smiling friends, who have no idea what happened.

This is where she hides herself most of the time — this sunny home on a quiet suburban street where she avoids running, avoids get-togethers and avoids getting to know her neighbors except when she searches the local sex offender registry.

She is studying when her boyfriend's dad comes in. He knows she was in the Navy with his son but nothing else.

"How are you doing?" Diana asks. "Fabulous!" he says and goes to look for food in the kitchen.

"I made some chicken, but it's not ready yet," Diana calls to him.

"That's OK — how are you?" the dad yells.

"Great!" she says.

The aftermath

The first lie was something like that. It happened right after she hid the form in the magazines, when her boss knocked on the door and said he was writing her up for being late to work.

A few minutes after that, she was sitting in a room with her chain of command, several middle-age men, all Navy chiefs, who wanted to know why she was late for work.

Her boss wasn't there. So she told them what she wasn't supposed to tell them. She said that she had filed a restricted report, and they knew instantly what that meant. It meant they couldn't ask any questions. They couldn't know who she did it.

The chiefs looked at Diana, who thought they looked like fathers alone with a teenage daughter who they would never understand. One looked away. She recalled. One asked whether she was OK.

She told them that she felt fine, and that was the first lie.

One asked if she wanted to see a mental health counselor and walked with her to that office.

When she came out, she said, her boss was standing nearby. And as the days went on, he kept watching her, she said, and she became more nervous, more angry and felt more out of control, until finally she went to her chief's office, handed over her weapon and asked to go home.

The authorization letter from the Air Force colonel ordered that she was to be evacuated to the United States using "the quickest means available," which turned out to be a civilian flight with a lawyer in Doha, Qatar.

So the next day she was in Doha, at a U.S. military base, where she had no idea where she was supposed to go or how she was supposed to explain why she was there.

At the front gates, some women who barely spoke English pointed her to another building, where someone told her to go to another building that was a mile away.

It was getting dark, and Diana started walking, hauling her backpack and rolling bag across the base.

She was lost.

SEE PAGE 12

MILITARY

FROM PAGE 11

Then a woman pulled up in a car beside her and asked why she was wandering around alone. Diana thought she was about her mother's age, and for the first time felt the urge to tell everything that had happened.

Instead, Diana told the woman that she was going home "for medical," and that was the second lie.

The woman drove her to the building to get her room assignment, which turned out to be a hangar-like space set aside for women, but since there weren't any, Diana stayed there alone.

The day after she arrived in the United States, she started seeing doctors.

"The Patient is a 26-year-old female," one of them wrote. "History of head injury, hit on [black of head 8 weeks ago — sexual assault. Dizziness worse with quick movement. ... Feeling restless, feeling nervous, anxiety with persistent worry, with anticipation of misfortune to self or others, with choking or smothering sensations ... fear, loneliness ... nightmares, screaming in the middle of the night ... social withdrawal, loss of interest in friends and family, apathy, feeling demoralized, feeling helpless."

She was sent to a 28-day program at a private psychiatric hospital, where counselors repeatedly asked her to describe the sexual assault, in increasingly minute detail, a type of therapy that was supposed to help her gain emotional control over the event. She remembers crying uncontrollably at times, and getting a call from the military recruiter, who wanted to know if she was still interested in the elite job with Special Operations.

Yes, she said, yes, definitely still interested.

She started working out again at a gym, although doctors limited that to one visit a day because they felt she was overexerting herself.

After the 28-day program, she was sent to a military base in California and landed in the bureaucratic limbo known as "Med Hold," where the military futures of sick and disabled servicemembers are determined.

March 18, 2013: "Pt does not like living in" California, a doctor wrote. "She has no supports, and hasn't told family about attack ... avoiding thinking of incident."

The recruiter arrived for the interview. Diana put on her old uniform. She would pull herself together.

They met in an office. Her six-inch-thick medical file was on a desk between them. She hadn't realized it when she signed the restricted report, but the recruiter was allowed to know everything, because he had to assess her fitness for duty. Such officials were among the "exceptions to restricted reporting" listed on the form.

So he knew about the assault, she realized.

"We see you have dealt with MST," she remembered him saying, using Pentagon jargon for military sexual trauma. He reminded her that the work involved being the only woman with small groups of men in remote locations. He wanted to know if she would be able to handle that.

Diana knew that one of the next steps was a lie detector

test, so she told him no, she probably wouldn't be comfortable with that, and he told her that the job was a "no-go."

April 22: "Patient reported it is more painful to deal with the aftermath and how she was treated rather than the assault itself."

She had to go to group therapy in California with about three dozen women, all there to deal with sexual harassment or sexual assault. At one point, the group had to sit through a lecture from a Navy captain — a man, Diana noted — about preventing rape. At another point, there was a discussion about reporting rape, and it became clear that most of the women had filed restricted reports, if they had said anything at all. The group included everyone from pilots to enlisted sailors with administrative jobs, some of whom struck Diana as so accomplished that she thought "that could be the next commander," except that they were here.

"Just crumbling," Diana recalled. "It was like watching yourself."

April 30: "No-show for appointment," the group therapy leader wrote.

By May,

Diana was sure that she wanted to leave the Navy. She could not possibly go back to her unit, where everyone thought she left early because she had a lump in her breast, which is what she had told them, or that she was pregnant, which is what she figured most of them assumed.

June 3: "She described her mood as 'okay,'" a psychiatrist wrote, noting that she was becoming more withdrawn.

Several months later, "You are being referred out of the military due to a mental disorder that you developed after you were the victim of a military sexual assault" began the letter from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Her military career was officially over.

She left California, bought a house, moved in with her boyfriend, stowed away everything military in the spare closet and ripped into little pieces all the descriptions of the assault she had written, throwing them away in different garbage cans.

A civilian now, she started studying for her nursing degree and waiting tables and realizing how much work it would be to keep her secret.

Her dad was always asking how she could afford such a nice house on a waiter's wages, since he didn't know about her disability checks.

Her mom wanted to know why she was always running to some appointment or other. "It's just a meeting," Diana would say, since she couldn't say she

was seeing a neurologist about the numbness in her left shoulder from being crushed, or a therapist about panic attacks. Her friends wanted to know why she was so skinny. "Oh, I'm just eating healthier," Diana would tell them.

Her boyfriend wanted to wake up early and go to Home Depot.

She couldn't tell him that she didn't want to go because she was assaulted in a room with tools all over the place, so she would just say she was tired, which wasn't a lie.

December came and went, and with it any meaningful possibility that she could change her restricted report to an unrestricted one, since by that time — a year after she signed the form — the military was also supposed to have destroyed all the evidence.

Case forever closed.

Second-guessing

Now, on a sunny afternoon in March, Diana is describing herself as a young woman who feels old; a veteran who allows herself two medications (one for vertigo and a muscle relaxer for the pain on the left side of her jaw, shoulder and hip); a person who wakes up sweating and terrified from nightmares she can't remember.

She is sitting in the corner of the cafe, baseball cap pulled down, log-

ging onto Facebook, where she and the women from the therapy group in California have a confidential page they call "the sisterhood."

The idea is to have one place where they can express themselves. But what they mostly do is write posts about anything other than what happened.

She closes her computer, and before she heads to work, she considers the moment when she signed Form 2910. She wonders whether she made the right choice.

She wonders whether her boss has assaulted other women and whether those women filed restricted reports. She thinks about what circumstances might have led her to come forward publicly with an unrestricted report.

"Maybe if I was not on deployment," she says, beginning a train of thought she's been over and over.

"Maybe if I was not in a combat zone and maybe if I didn't see a future in the military, and if I didn't fear retribution. If I didn't fear gossip and rumors or the fact that the trial would be lengthy and the punishment wouldn't fit the crime because it never does. Maybe if my family didn't have to find out and get dragged into it. There are a lot of things."

There is another train of thought, too, one that begins with who she was before any of this happened: an adventurous young woman excited for a career in the Navy and on the cusp of a job that would have taken her into Afghan villages and maybe around the world.

"I don't plan for the future as much as I used to, which is weird ...," she says. "It's almost like you're no longer flourishing, you're just surviving."

All of which makes her think that maybe she did make the wrong decision. Maybe her life would have been better if she had never gone to the emergency room, if she had never signed the restricted report, if she had never said anything at all.

But she did go, and she did sign, and now it is time for work.

It is Friday, and the restaurant is crowded with middle-age men, paunchy and drinking. She is trying to avoid eye contact and to remember to breathe when an elderly man and woman arrive.

They always ask for Diana, ever since the chef told them that she was in the Navy.

They had asked her where she was stationed, and she had told them California, and they had asked if she was on a ship, and she had said no, and then they had gotten around to asking if she had gone to Afghanistan, and she had said yes and left it at that.

Now they are back, and she walks over to the hostess and begs her not to seat the couple in her section. She doesn't want to have to answer any more questions.

For the rest of the night, she wants to avoid conversations, to be as quiet as possible, which for her is like telling the truth.

"The Patient is a 26-year-old female. History of head injury, hit on [black of head 8 weeks ago — sexual assault. Dizziness worse with quick movement. ... Feeling restless, feeling nervous, anxiety with persistent worry, with anticipation of misfortune to self or others, with choking or smothering sensations ... fear, loneliness ... nightmares, screaming in the middle of the night ... social withdrawal, loss of interest in friends and family, apathy, feeling demoralized, feeling helpless."

NATION

Blast at ammunition plant site kills 1

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — An explosion and fire at a Tennessee plant where ammunition is made killed one person and injured three others.

Rescue workers were called Wednesday afternoon to a blast at the Rio Ammunition plant in McEwen, about 55 miles west of Nashville, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives spokesman Michael Knight said. Three men and one woman were taken to Vanderbilt University Medical Center, where one was pronounced dead, hospital spokesman Craig Boerner said.

Ex-official sentenced in Calif. corruption case

LOS ANGELES — A former city official who became a symbol of municipal greed was sentenced Wednesday to 12 years in prison — less than half the time it will take the nearly bankrupt Los Angeles suburb of Bell to dig itself out of the estimated \$150 million in debt he left behind.

A judge also ordered former Bell city manager Robert Rizzo to make \$8.8 million in restitution, but prosecutors said that only covers the money he illegally took for himself.

In all, Rizzo cost the modest city more than \$150 million in legal fees and illegally collected taxes that must be repaid, said prosecutors and Bell officials.

4 expelled for flag, blackface incidents

MELVILLE, N.Y. — A Long Island, N.Y., high school has expelled four students in separate incidents that the principal called racially offensive — the display of a Confederate battle flag at a school sports event, and posting of a photograph in blackface along with incendiary language on social media.

Brother Gary Cregan, principal of St. Anthony's High School in South Huntington, said Wednesday he expelled two seniors, both boys, who on April 9 walked into an event in the gymnasium with the flag, which teachers immediately confiscated.

He also expelled two girls, both sophomores, after they posted on social media a photograph of one of them in blackface and the racially inflammatory language.

Judge overturns state's 6-week abortion ban

BISMARCK, N.D. — A federal judge on Wednesday overturned a North Dakota law that bans abortions when a fetal heartbeat can be detected, which can be as early as six weeks into pregnancy and before many women know they're pregnant.

U.S. District Judge Daniel Howard said the law is "invalid and unconstitutional" and that it "cannot withstand a constitutional challenge." The state attorney general said he was looking at whether to appeal the decision by the Bismarck-based judge.

From wire reports.

Openly back health care law, some Democrats say

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Democrats reluctant to embrace President Barack Obama's much-maligned health care overhaul in this year's congressional elections may be having second thoughts now that enrollment in the program is higher than expected and cost estimates are lower.

"Obamacare," has been a favorite target of the Republicans in many campaigns this year where Republicans need only six seats to gain control of the 100 member Senate.

But with the administration having overcome a disastrous rollout and good news trickling in, even some professionals who have criticized the health care law say the political climate has changed.

"I think Democrats have the ability to steal the health care

issue back from Republicans," health care industry consultant Bob Laszewski said. "The Democratic Party can become the party of fixing Obamacare."

Obama recently announced that first-year sign-ups for subsidized private health insurance topped 7 million, exceeding expectations. And the Congressional Budget Office — the government's fiscal scorekeeper — said the new law will cost taxpayers \$100 billion less than previously estimated.

Republicans already were pushing their luck by vowing to "repeal and replace" the health care law without having a viable replacement in mind, said Thomas Mills, a Democratic consultant and blogger. Now, he said, Democrats have even more reasons to rise from their defensive crouch on this topic.

"Democrats need to start mak-

ing the case for Obamacare," Mills said. "They all voted for it, they all own it, so they can't get away from it. So they'd better start defending it."

Pro-Democratic activists in Alaska are doing just that, and a number of strategists elsewhere hope it will spread.

The independent group Put Alaska First is airing a TV ad that praises Democratic Sen. Mark Begich for helping people obtain insurance even if they have "pre-existing conditions," such as cancer. The ad doesn't mention Obama or his health care law by name, but it focuses on one of the law's most popular features.

Other Democrats should consider such tactics, political consultant David DiMartino said.

"There is still time to tell the story of Obamacare to voters," he said.

City plans reservoir flush after urination

By STEVEN DUBOIS
The Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. — Call it the Big Flush 2.0, and this time the sequel promises to be much bigger than the original.

Portland officials said Wednesday they are flushing away millions of gallons of treated water for the second time in less than three years because someone urinated into a city reservoir.

In June 2011, the city drained a 7.5 million-gallon reservoir at Mount Tallon in southeast Portland. This time, 38 million gallons from a different reservoir at the same location will be discarded after a 19-year-old was videotaped in the act.

"The basic commandment of the Water Bureau is to provide clean, cold and constant water to its customers," bureau administrator David Shaff said Wednesday. "And the premise behind that is we don't have pee in it."

The open reservoirs hold water that already has been treated and goes directly into mains for distribution to customers.

The urine poses little risk — animals routinely deposit waste without creating a public health crisis — but Shaff said he doesn't want to serve water that was deliberately tainted.

"There is at least a perceived difference from my perspective," Shaff said. "I could be wrong on that, but the reality is our customers don't anticipate drinking water that's been contaminated by some yahoo who decided to pee into a reservoir."

Water-quality test samples have been taken from the reservoir, with the results due Thursday. The water will be drained into the sewage system, eventually reaching a treatment plant before it's dumped into the Columbia River.

In the meantime, Shaff said, the city has plenty of water to meet demand.

"It's easy to replace those 38 million gallons of water," Shaff said. "We're not in the arid Southwest. We're not in drought-stricken parts of Texas or Oklahoma."

The incident occurred shortly after 1 a.m., when Water Bureau security personnel noticed three men on camera at Mount Tallon Reservoir No. 5. One was seen on video urinating through an iron fence, officials said. Minutes later, two other young men attempted to scale the fence.

The three men, whose names have not been released, were cited for trespassing and excluded from Mount Tallon Park. A 19-year-old was cited for public urination.

The Multnomah County District Attorney's Office will decide whether to pursue criminal charges.

The kidney-shaped reservoir built in 1911 is drained for cleaning each spring and fall.



Firefighters and other officials work the scene of an accident in which two firetrucks answering a call collided en route to a fire Wednesday in Monterey Park, Calif., One firetruck careened into a restaurant.

15 hurt as firetruck plows into Calif. cafe

By JOHN ROGERS
The Associated Press

MONTREY PARK, Calif. — A Monterey Park firetruck heading to a blaze collided with another engine and then plowed into restaurant, injuring 15 people including six firefighters, authorities said.

The crash Wednesday afternoon ripped through the front of Lu Dumping House and left it littered with victims, witnesses said.

Wendy Wu, a waitress at the Chinese restaurant, was in a walk-in freezer when the truck hit and wasn't hurt.

"There was a loud boom and

a lot of shaking. I thought it was an earthquake," she said. Walking out of the freezer, she saw a refrigerator pushed across the room and furniture in disarray.

Speaking through an interpreter, Wu said she saw several injured people bleeding and trying to stand.

Waitress Vivian Lu arrived for her shift moments after the truck rammed the building. She said she saw "a lot of people covered with blood," including a pedestrian with a mangled leg who had been knocked into the restaurant.

Most of the 15 people hurt had minor injuries but one person — not a firefighter — was hospi-

talized in critical condition, authorities said.

The firetruck's front half remained embedded in the restaurant for hours, with shattered glass and rubble heaped on the sidewalk. Chairs and tables were scattered inside.

The truck finally was pulled free late Wednesday night.

The California Highway Patrol was investigating the crash between the Monterey Park engine and a ladder truck from neighboring Alhambra.

Both were heading to a house fire and had their lights and sirens going when they collided, CHP and fire officials said.

MILITARY



Photos courtesy of the Department of Defense

An F/A-18 Super Hornet from Strike Fighter Squadron 103 refuels in flight with an Air Force KC-135 over Afghanistan during a mission in support of coalition forces. The squadron is part of Carrier Air Wing 7 and embarked on aircraft carrier USS Dwight D. Eisenhower.

OUT of OPTIONS

Crash report outlines mistakes, danger faced by naval aviators during mission

By Mike Hixenbaugh
The (Norfolk) Virginian-Pilot

The aircraft carrier USS Eisenhower was finally in sight.

The pilot of the F/A-18 Super Hornet hurriedly flipped switches and pushed levers. The aviator in the backseat leaned forward, straining to see the flight deck floating in the distance. The jet's right engine had locked up, its landing gear had jammed and the main fuel tank was almost empty.

At nearly 350 mph, the Super Hornet hurtled over the warm waters of the North Arabian Sea last April. The pilot had made some tough decisions that day; several hadn't gone his way.

Now he was out of options. He had one chance to land.

Connection failure

The two-seat Super Hornet had launched off the Eisenhower's flight deck 5½ hours earlier. It was one of several jets from Virginia Beach, Va.-based Strike Fighter Squadron 103 tasked with providing close air support to aid troops on the ground in Afghanistan.

The pilot guided the jet through dark rain clouds over Pakistan. After escaping the storm system, he moved toward an KC-135 Stratotanker, an Air Force fuel plane in the skies of Afghanistan.

The 600-mile flight from the Arabian Sea — a familiar journey for Navy fighter pilots after more than a decade of war — requires that Super Hornets make at least two midair refuelings.

The pilot extended a refueling probe from the jet's nose. He moved into position behind the tanker toward a fuel line that dangles behind it. The pilot carefully steered the probe into a basket at the end of the fuel line.

Jet fuel began flowing into the Super Hornet's tanks. After eight minutes, it had taken in about 14,800 pounds of fuel. Unexpected turbulence caused the fuel line to ripple violently and wrap itself around the basket and probe. The pilot eased up on the throttle to back out of the connection. Instead, the hose detached from the

basket and began spewing fuel.

Gas streamed into the fighter jet's right engine intake. Worse, the fuel basket was stuck on the probe, meaning it could no longer be retracted. The jet — flying over a war zone hundreds of miles from its home ship — would not be able to refuel again in the air.

Initial decision

A warning tone sounded, and caution lights lit up the cockpit. Sensors told the pilot something was wrong with the right engine, which had ingested the fuel.

The pilot made some quick calculations. He had 15,500 pounds of fuel in his tanks, enough to return to the Eisenhower and make six passes at the ship.

Landing in nearby Kandahar was a more prudent option, but that likely would have meant several days awaiting repairs. The Eisenhower's air wing commander had decided earlier not to put a maintenance detachment in Afghanistan — a cost-saving measure that pilots perceived as a signal they should attempt to divert back to the ship.

The pilot and his backseat weapons-systems officer agreed: The situation wasn't serious enough to land immediately. They broke away from the group to begin the long return to the Eisenhower.

By the time they realized much of the fuel was unusable, it would be too late to reverse course.

Failed fuel pumps

The jet had flown more than 400 miles, two-thirds of the way back to the carrier, when the aviators noticed another problem.

The pumps that move fuel from reserve tanks on the wings into the main tanks are automatically disabled when the refueling probe is extended.

The pilot had been staring at that probe and the attached basket for more than an hour but failed to realize its effect on the fuel pumps. He knew the hulking metal contraption sticking up from the nose of the jet was putting extra drag on the aircraft, causing it to burn more fuel; he figured the 3,000

About this story

This report was based on an investigation into the April 8, 2013, crash of an F/A-18 Super Hornet. Names and other identifying details were redacted from the report, which was obtained by The Virginian-Pilot through a Freedom of Information Act request. The report cited questionable decision-making by the pilot but did not recommend disciplinary action.

pounds of gas in the wing tanks would more than make up for it.

The aviators didn't panic when they realized that the fuel pumps weren't running. The pilot would try to use gravity to move the gas.

He began "slipping and cross controlling" — tilting a wing up a few degrees while flying straight. Alternating the tilt should move fuel from the wing tanks. But the maneuver also burns more fuel.

They didn't know it yet, but even with the tilt, not enough gas was flowing.

Serious danger

The Super Hornet was about 140 miles from the ship — most of the way home — when a voice from the Ike's tower crackled over the radio with a question: "What would you call your usable fuel?"

"Thirty-seven-hundred pounds if no additional fuel transferred from the wings," the pilot replied, then let his own words sink in. He had been counting on at least 4,500 pounds, but more than 1,000 pounds of fuel remained in the wings. Only about 10 or 20 pounds was transferring each minute.

It was at that moment, the pilot would later tell an investigator, that he first realized they were in serious danger.

Seconds later, the voice of Rear Adm. Michael Gilday broke into the conversation. The commander of the Eisenhower carrier strike group had been monitoring radio chatter. "I want you to send 206 to Masirah right now," Gilday said,

referring to an airfield in Oman.

Attempting to land a jet on a moving aircraft carrier is difficult under the best conditions; having a damaged plane attempt it with limited fuel would be too risky, Gilday would say later. If the pilot failed to land on the first pass, he wouldn't have enough fuel to divert to shore, Gilday said, calling it a "Hail Mary."

The Super Hornet, now just 11 miles from the Eisenhower, turned toward Masirah, more than 280 miles away.

Engine failure

Twenty-four minutes later, a new set of warning lights lit up the cockpit display. The right engine had abruptly stopped working.

The pilot radioed the carrier. The officer in the tower told him to jettison an empty fuel tank, then walked him through emergency procedures.

The engine was locked up and wouldn't restart. With just one engine and 1,400 pounds of usable fuel, landing in Masirah was no longer an option. The tower ordered the pilot to turn back toward the Eisenhower, 46 miles away at that point. The pilot made the turn. He continued dipping the wings, hoping to capture fuel from the reserve tanks.

Then, without telling his backseat or the ship, the pilot engaged the plane's auxiliary power unit in a desperate attempt to restart the right engine.

The engine didn't crank. Without realizing it — as the ship came into view on the horizon — the pilot had drained the sole source of reserve power he needed to lower his landing gear.

Every second mattered

The officer in the tower read instructions for an emergency, single-engine landing. Without the right engine turning to power the hydraulics, the plane would have to use auxiliary power to put down the landing gear, the officer said, unaware that the pilot had already drained it. The pilot followed instructions and pulled the landing gear handle, but the wheels didn't

come down. The jet was 11 miles from the ship.

The tower told the pilot to remove and reinsert the circuit breakers, but the trick failed to restore auxiliary power. Then it told him to try once more to restart the right engine. No luck.

The pilot frantically repeated all the emergency procedures and pulled again on the landing-gear handle. This time, the nose wheel came down.

He checked his fuel gauges. Just 700 pounds of fuel left in the main tank. Every second mattered now.

The tower officer told the pilot to accelerate to 350 mph, hoping the speed would cause the right engine to rotate in the wind and provide enough hydraulic power to drop the back wheels.

The pilot pushed the throttle. The left engine roared, the right began to rotate slowly. Finally, the landing gear popped out.

A landing signal officer on the flight deck told the pilot he was coming in high but was lined up.

There was no room for error; this would be their one shot.

The jet was less than 2 miles away when it ran out of fuel.

Plunging into the sea

The left engine flamed out without much warning. The digital cockpit displays went dark. The S41 million fighter jet nosed downward, rolled right and began to fall from 1,200 feet.

The backseat aviator, unaware the pilot had lost control, leaned forward to see how far away the ship was. Suddenly a violent thrust blew him into the sky. The pilot had pulled the ejection handle without giving him a warning.

The jet — with nearly 2,000 pounds of fuel trapped inside — plunged into the sea. Both aviators blacked out, hanging limp below parachute canopies, before hitting the water and coming to.

Disoriented and bleeding after the ejections, the men cut themselves free from their chutes.

The rescue helicopter arrived quickly, and returned them to the Eisenhower's flight deck.

WORLD

Don't mess with the hair

London salon's Kim Jong Un ad sparks diplomatic incident

By JILL LAWLESS
The Associated Press

LONDON — North Korea has made a diplomatic appeal to the British government to get a London salon out of its hair.

The country's diplomats have complained to the Foreign Office about a hairdressing salon that put up a poster poking fun at distinctively coiffed North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

The Foreign Office confirmed Wednesday it had received a letter from the North Korean Embassy objecting to the poster, and was considering its response.

The Evening Standard news-

paper reported the letter urged Britain to take "necessary action to stop the provocation."

Staff at M&M Hair Academy say they were visited by diplomats from the embassy after putting up a poster last week featuring a picture of Kim — who sports a distinctive short-back-and-sides 'do — and the slogan "Bad Hair Day."

The poster was advertising a 15 percent discount on men's cuts during April.

Barber Karim Nabbach said the salon was inspired by media rumors that North Korean men had been instructed to emulate the leader's hairstyle.

He said staff refused the diplomats' request to remove the poster and had reported the incident to police.

"We haven't had any trouble since then. If anything, the poster has become a tourist attraction," he said Tuesday — but by Wednesday afternoon the salon was shut and the poster was not visible in the window. The salon's phone rang unanswered.

Police said they had spoken to both parties and determined no crime had been committed.

The embassy didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.



Barber Karim Nabbach poses next to a poster poking fun at North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's hairstyle at M&M Hair Academy in South Ealing, west London.
M&M Hair Academy/AP

Attack on base kills 10 Iraqi soldiers

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Militants launched a brazen attack on a military base in a restive area in northern Iraq on Thursday, killing at least 10 soldiers and wounding 12, officials said.

The morning attack at the base outside Mosul, about 225 miles northwest of Baghdad, started with a suicide bomber who detonated his explosives-laden truck at the gates of the facility, an army officer and a police officer said.

A group of gunmen then opened fire from apparently commandeered military Humvees and a shootout ensued. At least 10 troops were killed and 12 wounded, the officials said. Eight militants also were killed in the fighting.

A medical official confirmed the casualty figures. All officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they are not authorized to talk to media.

During the past months, Mosul and the surrounding region have seen bold attacks by militants, mainly from an al-Qaida splinter group known as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, against military and security forces.

In the adjacent province of Anbar to the west, the group seized control in December of parts of the provincial capital, Ramadi, and the center of the nearby city of Fallujah. Since then, Iraqi government security forces and allied Sunni tribal militias have been struggling to dislodge the militants.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for Thursday's attack, but suicide bombings and large-scale well-coordinated assaults are a hallmark of the group. Sunni insurgent groups have stepped up attacks across the country since last year in a bid to undermine the Shiite-led government.

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STARS AND STRIPES

WORLD

Samples taken from oil slick not from missing jet

The Associated Press

PERTH, Australia—Investigators were analyzing data collected by a robotic submarine that completed its first successful scan of the seabed Thursday in the hunt for the missing Malaysian plane, but say tests have ruled out that a nearby oil slick came from the aircraft.

The unmanned sub's first two missions were cut short by technical problems and deep water, but the Bluefin 21 finally managed to complete a full 16-hour scan

of the silt-covered seabed far off Australia's west coast, the search coordination center said. While data collected during the mission, which ended overnight, were still being analyzed, nothing of note had yet been discovered, the center said. The sub has now covered 35 square miles of seafloor.

Separately, the center said the oil analysis done in the western city of Perth came up empty when the samples tested negative for aircraft oil or hydraulic fluid. The oil was collected earlier this week

from a slick about 3.4 miles from the area where equipment picked up underwater sounds consistent with an aircraft black box.

It was hoped that the oil would be evidence that officials are looking in the right place for Flight 370, which vanished March 8 while en route from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, to Beijing.

Searchers have yet to find any physical proof that the sounds that led them to the ocean floor where the Bluefin has been deployed were from the ill-fated jet.



A Japanese Orion aircraft takes off Thursday from Pearce Airbase, north of Perth, Australia, to help in the search for missing Malaysia Airlines Flight 370.

Official: Fate unknown for 115 abducted Nigerian girls

The Associated Press

MAIDUGURI, Nigeria — The fate of 115 female students abducted by Islamic extremists was thrown into uncertainty Thursday when their school principal denied the Nigerian military's report that almost all the students had been freed.

"Up till now, we are still waiting and praying for the safe return of the students ...," the principal, Asabe Kwambura, told *The Associated Press* by telephone.

"The security people, especially the vigilantes and the well-meaning volunteers of Gwoza, are still out searching for them. The military people, too, are in the bush searching."

She said only 14 of the 129 girls and young women kidnapped by gunmen before dawn Tuesday have returned to Chibok town, four who jumped from the back of a truck and 10 who escaped into the bush when their abductors asked them to cook a meal.

The principal directly contradicted Maj. Gen. Chris Okulolade, the Defense Ministry spokesman, who said in a statement late Wednesday night that Kwambura herself had confirmed that all but eight of the students have been

accounted for. "The others have been freed this evening," he said. He also said security forces had captured one of the abductors.

Okulolade could not immediately be reached for further comment.

School principal Kwambura was adamant: "So let it be clear that all the information passed on to the media by the military concerning 107 girls is not true."

The extremists have been on a rampage in Nigeria this week, blamed for four attacks in three days that started with a massive explosion at a busy bus station during the Monday morning rush hour in Abuja, the capital, which killed at least 75 people.

Two attacks in northeastern villages killed 20 people Tuesday night and Wednesday morning.

More than 1,500 people have been killed this year, compared with an estimated 3,600 between 2010 and 2013.

The attacks undermine government and military claims that security forces are containing the Islamic militants' uprising that began five years ago in the extreme northeast of the country.



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| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
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THE NEW SANNO

WORLD

Evacuation came too late for many on sinking ferry

The Associated Press

MOKPO, South Korea — An immediate evacuation order was not issued for the ferry that sank off South Korea's southern coast, likely with scores of people trapped inside, because officers on the bridge were trying to stabilize the vessel after it started to list amid confusion and chaos, a crewmember said Thursday.

Meanwhile, the coast guard said it was investigating whether the ferry's captain was one of the first ones off the sinking ship.

The first instructions from the captain were for the passengers to put on life jackets and stay put, and it was not until about 30 minutes later that he ordered an evacuation, Oh Yong-seok, 58, a crewmember, told The Associated Press. Oh said he wasn't sure if the captain's order, given to crewmembers, was actually relayed to passengers on the public address system.

Several survivors also told the AP that they never heard any evacuation order.

Eighteen people, including a female crewmember, at least five

students and two teachers, were confirmed dead by coast guard officials Thursday night. The toll was expected to jump amid fears that more than 280 missing passengers — many high school students — were dead. Coast guard officials put the number of survivors Thursday at 179.

Video obtained by the AP that was shot by a survivor, truck driver Kim Dong-soo, shows the vessel listing severely as people in life jackets cling to the side of the ship to keep from sliding. A loudspeaker announcement can be heard telling passengers to stay in their quarters.

The increasingly anxious search for the missing was hampered all day Thursday by strong, dangerous currents, rain and bad visibility. Officials said divers would continue trying overnight to enter the ship.

There were 475 people aboard, including 325 students on a school trip to the tourist island of Jeju in the south of the country. The ferry had traveled overnight from Incheon on the northwest coast of South Korea and

was three hours short of its destination when it began to list. The cause is not yet known.

The 480-foot Sewol now sits — with just part of its keel visible — in waters off Mokpo, about 290 miles from Seoul.

Passenger Koo Bon-hee, 36, told the AP that many people were trapped inside by windows that were too hard to break. He wanted to escape earlier but didn't because of the announcement that said passengers should stay put.

"The rescue wasn't done well. We were wearing life jackets. We had time," Koo, who was on a business trip to Jeju with a co-worker, said from a hospital bed in Mokpo where he was treated for minor injuries. "If people had jumped into the water ... they could have been rescued. But we were told not to go out."

It is not clear if the captain's actions violated any procedures, and he may have believed at the time that it was still possible to control the vessel, which would have made the order to evacuate unnecessary.

2 US Navy helos join search for S. Korean ferry survivors

By Ashley Rowland
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — Two U.S. Navy helicopters began assisting Thursday in the search for survivors of a ferry that sank off the southwestern tip of South Korea a day earlier.

More than 280 people, many of them high school students on a school trip to a popular resort island, remain missing, and 18 people are confirmed dead, according to media reports.

Lt. Arlo Abrahamson, spokesman for Commander, Naval Forces Korea, said two MH-60 helicopters operating off the USS Bonhomme Richard were searching an area about 6 to 17 miles from the disaster site at the request of the South Korean commander directing the search.

Approximately 3,000 sailors and Marines are aboard the Bonhomme Richard, an amphibious assault ship that also carries MV-22 Ospreys. The ship is now about 23 to 29 miles from the wreckage of the Sewol, the 6,325-ton ferry that was en route to Jeju Island when it sent out a distress signal shortly before 9 a.m. Wednesday.

The Bonhomme Richard

had finished taking part in a large-scale U.S.-South Korean amphibious landing operation earlier this month and was conducting routine operations in waters west of the Korean peninsula Wednesday when it received a request to provide assistance.

"It was just past noon today (Wednesday) when we received the call to assist and we immediately altered course toward the site of the sinking vessel and came up to 'All Ahead Flank,' our highest possible speed," read a post attributed to Capt. Joey "JT" Tynch, the commanding officer of the Bonhomme Richard, on the ship's Facebook page. "The thoughts and prayers of all of us aboard BHR are with the passengers and crew of the Korean ferry Sewol and their families."

Two MH-60s equipped with lifeboats were initially dispatched to the disaster site but were recalled.

"The U.S. Navy is standing by and ready to assist as requested by our Korean partners," Abrahamson said. "We continue to keep in close contact with the on-scene commander."

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FAITH

Ministering to Wash. mudslide survivors

By AMY MARTINEZ
The Seattle Times

SEATTLE — Enio Agüero had never been to Oso, Wash., before late last month. But he recognized the faces.

"Faces of hopelessness, trying to find out why or how this could happen," said the 53-year-old chaplain from northern Virginia, a veteran of disaster relief in Moore, Okla., where a tornado last May obliterated entire subdivisions and killed 24 people.

"When a disaster like this happens, it touches the deepest part of our being. At one minute, there was everything; a minute later, there was nothing," said Agüero, a chaplain coordinator for Southern Baptist Disaster Relief. "There's no way we can make sense of this, except that God is in control."

People of faith, ministers and chaplains have responded to the deadly March 22 mudslide as a calling. They're on the ground in Oso, Darrington and Arlington, Wash., trying to help shocked survivors pick up and go on. The transition from overwhelming loss to healing will be slow and difficult, they say.

"I've been ordained 38 years, so I've seen a lot, but I've never been a part of something this dramatic and all-encompassing," said the Rev. Tim Sauer, pastor at the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Arlington and St. John Vianney in Darrington.

"There is a heightened sense of numbness, at least initially. It's been two weeks now, so the realities are starting to kick in."

In the first few days after the slide, local churches served as clearinghouses for food, water and other basic needs.

Increasingly, though, grieving

'When a disaster like this happens, it touches the deepest part of our being. At one minute, there was everything; a minute later, there was nothing. There's no way we can make sense of this, except that God is in control.'

Enio Agüero
chaplain coordinator,
Southern Baptist Disaster Relief

families and rescue workers are turning to them for spiritual and emotional care.

"Even someone who does not believe in God lifts up their eyes and asks 'Why?'" Agüero said.

The need to minister to people traumatized by natural disasters is attracting more attention from faith-based organizations, said the Rev. Frederick Streets, a social work professor at the University of Saint Joseph in West Hartford, Conn., and former chaplain of Yale University.

Grief felt over the sudden loss of a loved one, coupled with massive property damage, can lead to health ailments, substance abuse and other problems if left untreated, Streets said.

"Grief is a natural reaction to loss, and it becomes more complicated when the loss is traumatic and unforeseen," he said. "Even people who survived the mudslide have to deal with dislocation."

Chad Blood, pastor at Lifeway Four-square Church in Arlington, initially busied himself with phone calls to determine, "Who needs clothes, who needs water?" But his role changed when a volunteer firefighter in Darrington asked if he could come to the local community center, "to sit with people, engage with them and love them."

He and others emphasized that



they're careful to not proselytize or come across as if they're trying to convert someone to their own religious faith.

"I'll ask at the fire department, 'Hey, you need some water? Anything I can get you?' Just be present," Blood said. "Down the road, six months from now, when things quiet down and all the media has left — and things hit your heart a little heavier — they'll know where to turn."

He uses the term "ministry of presence" to describe what he sees as his main role nowadays: to serve as a listening ear. He spent one day last week running errands with the father of a teenage boy killed by the mudslide.

"You're not asking, 'How are you feeling?' How can someone even answer that question? At the same time, you can be with them, let them cry and express themselves," he said. "As a minister, I believe just being with somebody allows them to heal."

Sauer said he's been going practically nonstop since the disaster, from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily, devoting himself to grieving families from a variety of religious backgrounds.

Catholic Community Services is covering the funeral costs for slide victims, no matter what religion they followed

or did not follow.

"In every case, those conversations have moved from specifics about funerals, burials and expenses to their spiritual and faith life, and their own struggles with that," Sauer said.

"It's clear this has shaken our community in countless ways. But in that process, it has brought to the surface for a lot of people questions about what they believe and what matters, and what role God has, first of all, in this tragedy, and second, in their lives as they go forward from here," he said. "I sense that people are now looking for spiritual support."

Gabby Kernaghan, top right, attends a candlelight vigil inside the Darrington Community Center in Darrington, Wash., on April 5. The service honored victims and survivors of the mudslide in Oso, Wash., on March 22.

PHOTOS BY MARCUS YAM, THE SEATTLE TIMES/MCT

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Drunken driver crashes into train, runs away

OR JEFFERSON — Marion County sheriff's deputies said a driver crashed into a train before daybreak, ran from his burning car and asked neighbors for a place to sleep.

The sheriff's department reported Monday that Kyle Randall, 24, was arrested on a drunken driving charge after the neighbors called officers about 5 a.m. Saturday.

Deputies came to investigate and noticed a plume of smoke in the distance that turned out to be the burning car. They said the car was dragged 300 feet before Randall escaped. They described it as "burned out."

Dog implicated in park death back with owner

MO WENTZVILLE — Zeus, a Great Dane initially implicated in a fatal attack of another dog at a dog park, was given back to his owner on Friday.

Authorities said Buddy, 10, a golden retriever, was killed on March 30 at Quail Ridge Park in the off-leash dog area.

St. Charles County officials said an autopsy of Buddy showed no puncture marks, crushing or other identifiable cause of death. The county has been unable to locate another dog involved in the attack.

Zeus' owner agreed to put the dog in training and socialization classes and to allow future behavior evaluations. He will not be allowed in dog parks or other off-leash animal facilities.

Toddler found alone a block from his home

WI WISCONSIN RAPIDS — A Wood County agency took custody of an 18-month-old boy this week who was found wandering about a block away from his home while his father slept.

The toddler will be turned over to a relative, Daily Tribune Media reported.

A care worker spotted the boy wandering around the Thousand Oaks Trailer Park in Wisconsin Rapids on Friday morning. The child was wearing a short-sleeved shirt, a diaper and one sock, police Lt. Brian Krzykowski said.

Officers went to the boy's home and woke the father, who didn't know his son was missing. Wood County Human Services took custody of the boy and will turn him over to a responsible relative, Krzykowski said.

Man arrested in school bathroom camera case

IA DAVENPORT — Authorities have arrested an eastern Iowa man accused of placing hidden video recording devices in a girls' school bathroom.

The U.S. Department of Justice for the southern district of Iowa said Ian Dishon Isabel, 29, was taken into custody Friday. He was captured in Adams County in western Illinois.

The Quad-City Times reported



CASEY CHRISTIE, THE BAKERSFIELD CALIFORNIAN/AP

Holy crappie!

Colt Cannon, 4, and his grandfather, Curt Cannon, of Bakersfield, Calif., have fun together catching fish during the annual Isabella Lake, Calif., Fishing Derby on Saturday. They are holding a crappie they caught before the derby and a trout that was caught Saturday morning.

that Isabel was arrested on a federal complaint charging him with production of child pornography. Isabel is accused of placing the devices in a girls' bathroom at Hayes Elementary School in Davenport. He was recently the site coordinator for an after-school program for the district.

2 men die near finish line of half-marathon

NC RALEIGH — Authorities said two runners died near the finish line of a half-marathon near Raleigh on

Sunday. Race organizers said the men's deaths appeared to be from natural causes.

About 12,000 runners were expected to participate in the half-marathon and the full marathon near downtown Raleigh.

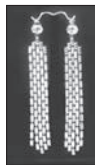
Rock 'n' Roll Marathon Medical Director Dr. P.Z. Pearce said doctors and race organizers spoke to the families of both runners, who asked for privacy.

The names of the runners have not been released. Officials said the men were young and physically fit; one was 31 and the other was 35.

THE CENSUS

\$185K

The amount paid at an auction in Beverly Hills, Calif., for a pair of rhinestone earrings that Marilyn Monroe wore to a 1955 Hollywood film premiere. Julien's Auctions said in a statement Sunday that the actress wore the jewelry when she attended the opening of "The Rose Tattoo," a film based on a Tennessee Williams play. The buyer was a foreign collector; the auction house doesn't release the names of buyers.



April 26, officials with Microsoft-owned Xbox said. The excavation will be open for public viewing, according to Xbox.

The company is joining with Fuel Entertainment and Light Box Interactive to search the landfill. All three companies are making a documentary about the project, and Microsoft plans to release it on its Xbox One console.

Cops dress as Amish to target flasher of kids

PA PULASKI — A male western Pennsylvania police officer has been dressing as an Amish woman — along with a female officer from a neighboring department — hoping to scare off a man suspected of exposing himself to Amish children.

Pulaski Township Sgt. Chad Adams said police weren't able to charge the man because of a lack of evidence, but they believe he's the same person sentenced to house arrest in January for similar incidents in neighboring Mercer County.

Adams said he got help from a female officer in Wampum. The Amish who live in Lawrence County don't want their children to testify in court and agreed to lead the police women's bonnets, aprons and dresses to catch or scare away the suspect.

Boat burns; family bails out and swims to shore

OR PRINEVILLE — A boat caught fire on the Prineville Reservoir and sank after family members jumped overboard and swam to shore.

The Crook County Sheriff's Office reported that the fire broke out Sunday afternoon near a boat launch when the operator tried to start the inboard motor and the engine compartment caught fire.

Deputies said Anthony Howden, 40, of Bend, told them he tried to use a fire extinguisher, but it didn't work. Life jackets were not at hand, so the family bailed out without them.

The boat was about 30 yards from shore when deputies arrived, and then it drifted toward shore before sinking, they said.

From wire reports

Dig for Atari 'E.T.' games set to begin

NM ALAMOGORDO — Organizers of a search in a New Mexico landfill for a rumored stash of what some call the worst video game ever made by Atari announced last week that the dig will get underway this month.

The dig at the Alamogordo landfill where Atari reportedly discarded millions of "E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial" game cartridges in 1983 is scheduled for

WEEKEND

A black and white photograph of actor Kevin Costner. He is wearing a white dress shirt and a dark tie, smiling slightly. He is holding a Wilson NFL football with both hands in front of his chest. The background is a blurred outdoor setting.

Are you ready for some football?

Kevin Costner goes inside the NFL war room in 'Draft Day'

Pages 24-25

Ruggedly handsome

Natural beauty abounds on French isle of Corsica

Europe travel, Page 30



Uniquely American

24-hour diner on Okinawa features great food, location

Pacific dining, Page 35



WEEKEND: GADGETS & CHARTS



JANE TYSKA, BAY AREA NEWS GROUP/MCT

Revolights chief executive officer and co-founder Kent Frankovich, right, and co-founder Adam Pettler, left, demonstrate their product — wheel-mounted LED bicycle lights — in Emeryville, Calif.

Revolights shows off bright idea for cyclists

By HEATHER SOMERVILLE
San Jose Mercury News

On March 7, San Francisco entrepreneur Kent Frankovich made a 10-minute prime time TV appearance, and went home with \$300,000.

Frankovich, co-founder and CEO of startup Revolights, made a pitch for his LED bicycle light invention on the ABC reality TV show "Shark Tank," a program notorious for its cutthroat competition. Frankovich not only stood up under the pressure of five ruthlessly critical judges, he also impressed them enough to land a \$300,000 investment — twice what he went on the show to ask for.

On "Shark Tank," budding entrepreneurs pitch their businesses to a panel of millionaire and billionaire tycoons and get an immediate answer — either a resounding "yes" to investing for a stake in the company, or a deflating "no" likely followed by some ruthless criticism.

Frankovich had asked for \$150,000 in exchange for 10 percent of his company. Revolights, which Frankovich started

with fellow Walnut Creek, Calif., native Adam Pettler in 2011, makes battery-powered LED bicycle lights that mount on the front and back wheels, illuminating the bicyclist's path without shining in the bicyclist's face or blinding anyone else on the road. The lights synchronize with the pedal speed, and blinking red tail lights alert others on the road when the bike is slowing.

His pitch was immediately met with praise — a rare response on the show. The investors called Revolights "so cool" and "very smart."

Frankovich told the investors — called "sharks" on the show — that 70 percent of nighttime bike collisions can be attributed to lack of side visibility.

"We want to eliminate that statistic," he said.

The \$300,000 offer came from Robert Herjavec, founder of The Herjavec Group, a leading IT security and infrastructure integration firm.

Frankovich said the company had sold \$600,000 of product in about 10 months, primarily online, but Revolights was not yet profitable. Revolights sell for \$139 each or \$229 for two.

ON THE COVER: Kevin Costner stars as Sonny Weaver Jr., the fictional general manager of the Cleveland Browns, in "Draft Day."

Courtesy of Summit Entertainment

GADGET WATCH

V-Moda XS headphones worth the wait

By GREGG ELLMAN
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

It's a generic saying, but the new V-Moda XS over-the-ear headphones are true to phrase when I say "big things come in small packages."

Before I had my hands on the final product, the company was touting them as "Designed for ultimate comfort and sleek ergonomic fit," which kind of surprised me after I saw the large box they were delivered in.

After unpacking the press kit and getting to the headphones I saw how that statement held true along with V-Moda's well-deserved praise over the years for designing fashion-forward wearable technology with incredible sound.

Val Kolton, the company's CEO and founder, gave me a sneak peek at the headphones late last year while they were in development. During our conversation he stressed the need to design the XS brand with a head-band that minimizes the space between your head and the headband.

After trying on the finished product you can see and feel how Kolton achieved his vision, which was in development for more than five years.

They feature a patent-pending CigFold hinge with comfortable, padded ear cups.

V-Moda conducted tests of the physical durability of the XS's and have stated they can withstand up to 60 drops on concrete and the "steelteefx" headband is virtually indestructible.

I showed them to a friend whose first impression was "why are they so small, they don't even cover my ears." I told him to put them on and I turned up the music. He was sold, as was I, the second I had them on my head.

The powerful sound comes from 40mm dual-diaphragm drivers in each ear.

Other features include a 45-degree plug and tangle-free cords, which include a microphone that can be used with Apple iPhone, iPad, Android and Windows handheld devices.

The headphones are available at V-Moda.com for \$212 in matte black metal or white silver, which include personal customization of the interchangeable steel plates on each ear.

They also can be purchased without the customization at many other locations for \$199.99.

According to V-Moda, the combination of steel and metal materials stand up to military-level standards of the MIL-STD-810G testing guidelines.

What that means to you and me is that they are built to last.

Details: www.v-moda.com/XS

Most households can't get enough USB ports for charging. The Anker 5-port chargers help ensure that every device gets a full charge.

It's built with Smart Port quick-charge technology in all five ports. This allows it to adjust to any device's (Android, iOS, etc.) maximum charging speed and capacity.

As it's advertised, just plug in and it'll do the rest from the 40W AC charging device.

This includes power-hungry tablets, which often require a higher-capacity charger.

I put it in the test by plugging in a pair of iPads (air and version 4) along with a pair of iPhone 5s and an iPhone

4. The next morning all five were charged up and ready for a day's use.

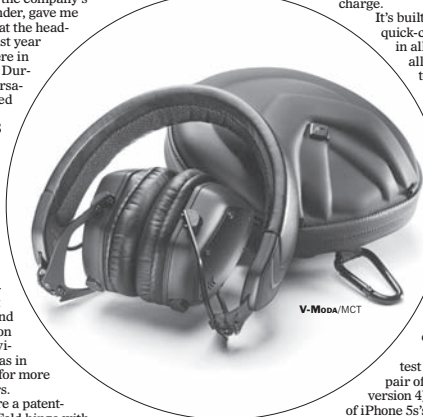
Details: \$25.99 for the 40W 5-port model, \$19.99 for the 25W 5-port; www.anker.com

Energizer's new 200-lumen high performance headlight might not be a fashion statement, but when you need a hands-free quality light, it's as good as any.

It works off of the three included AAA batteries (Energizer of course) and has a removable, adjustable and washable headband.

The light pivots up to 90 degrees and has four light modes with a high and low for white spot light and white flood.

Details: \$37.99; www.energizer.com



V-Moda/MCT

ITUNES MUSIC

Top 10 songs on the iTunes Store for April 16:

1. "Happy" (from "Despicable Me 2"), Pharrell Williams
2. "West Coast," Lana Del Rey
3. "All of Me," John Legend
4. "Let It Go," Idina Menzel
5. "Sing," Ed Sheeran
6. "Play It Again," Luke Bryan
7. "Turn Down for What," DJ Snake & Lil Jon
8. "Talk Dirty" (Explicit), Jason Derulo (feat. 2 Chainz)
9. "Dark Horse," Katy Perry (feat. Juicy J)
10. "Talk Dirty," Jason Derulo (feat. 2 Chainz)

— Compiled by MCT

SPOTIFY MUSIC

Top streamed tracks on Spotify for April 17-18:

1. John Legend, "All of Me"
2. Katy Perry, "Dark Horse"
3. Jason Derulo, "Talk Dirty" — feat. 2 Chainz
4. Bastille, "Pompeii"
5. Various Artists, "Let It Go"
6. Aloe Blacc, "The Man"
7. Lorde, "Team"
8. Coldplay, "Magic"
9. The Chainsmokers, "#SELFIE — Original Mix"
10. OneRepublic, "Counting Stars"

— Compiled by The Associated Press

ITUNES MOVIES

Top 10 movies downloaded from the iTunes Store for April 16:

1. "The Wolf of Wall Street"
2. "Ride Along"
3. "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty"
4. "Frozen"
5. "In a World..."
6. "The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug"
7. "Archorman"
8. "The Legend Continues"
9. "The Nut Job"
10. "Legend of Hercules"
11. "Philomena"

— Compiled by MCT

VIDEO GAMES

The editors of Game Informer rank the Top 10 downloadable games for April:

1. "TowerFall Ascension," PS4, PC
2. "The Last of Us: Left Behind," PS3
3. "Luftrausers," PS3, PC, Vita
4. "Strider," PS4, Xbox One, PS3, 360, PC
5. "Mercenary Kings," PS4, PC
6. "BioShock Infinite: Burial at Sea — Episode Two," PS3, 360, PC
7. "The Walking Dead: Season 2 Episode 2 — A House Divided," PS3, 360, PC, iOS
8. "Fez," PS4, PS3, Vita
9. "The Wolf Among Us Episode 3 — A Crooked Mile," PS3, 360, PC, iOS
10. "SteamWorld Dig," PS4, PC, 3DS

— Compiled by MCT

APPS

Top 5 new free apps for April 16:

- ANDROID**
1. Family Guy: The Quest for Stuff
 2. Cut the Rope 2
 3. CSR Classics
 4. Cubis — Addictive Puzzle!
 5. Heartbleed Security Scanner

Top 5 free apps for April 16:

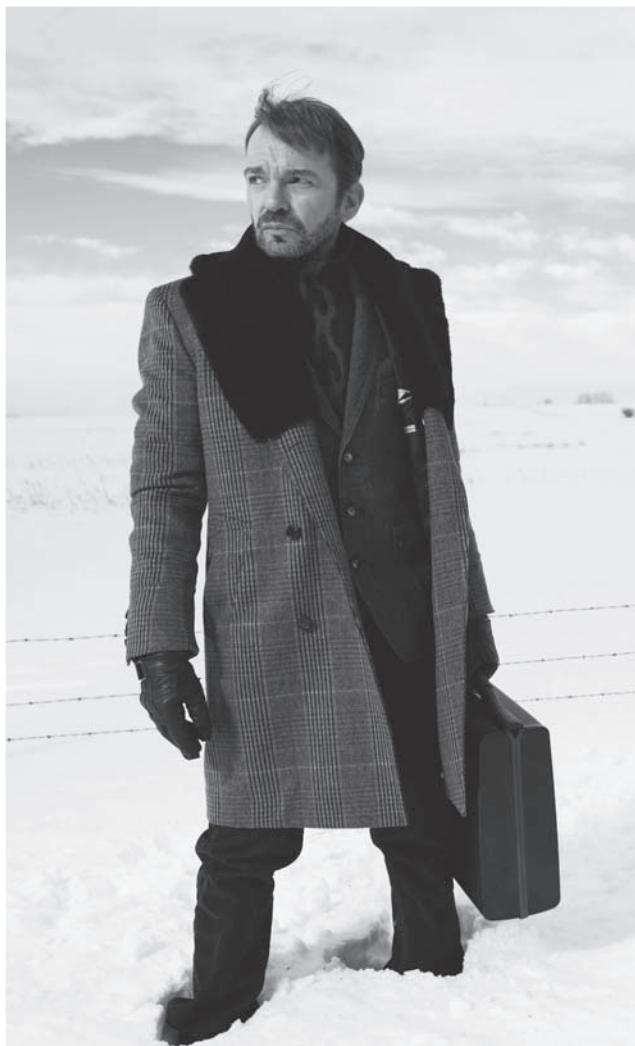
- APPLE**
1. Microsoft Word for iPad
 2. Trials Frontier
 3. Family Guy: The Quest for Stuff
 4. 2048
 5. Don't Tap The White Tile

— Compiled by MCT

WEEKEND

CHECK IT OUT

Events, entertainment and other ways to fill your free time



Billy Bob Thornton as Lorne Malvo in the new FX series "Fargo."

MATTHIAS CLAMER/FX

1

Aw, Jeez, 'Fargo' is on AFN

The new FX series isn't a remake but rather a furtherance of the Coen brothers' 1996 crime classic. It's still set in rural, snowy Minnesota, but the characters are different. The stellar cast includes Billy Bob Thornton (left), Martin Freeman, Colin Hanks, Bob Odenkirk and Kate Walsh, among many others. But is it Coen approved? You betcha. Joel and Ethan are executive producers.

• 'Fargo' premieres April 20 on AFN-Spectrum.

2

Costner tackles the NFL

Kevin Costner is back in his wheelhouse, starring in a sports movie. He's best known for his baseball films, but in "Draft Day" he's an NFL general manager trying to make the most of his first-round draft pick. Moviegoers, you're on the clock.

• Costner profile on Page 24.

• Movie review and a look at Costner's sports flicks on Page 25.

3

Watch a clinic in songcraft

You might not be familiar with singer-songwriter Jesse Winchester, who died of cancer on April 11, but chances are a musician you admire is. A few years back, on the Elvis Costello talk show "Spectacle," he moved indie rocker Neko Case to tears with a performance.

• Watch the 'Spectacle' performance at: <http://youtu.be/5uKGWpqnS8E>

• Winchester appreciation on Page 26.

WEEKEND: MOVIES

I'M SURE, IF PEOPLE TRIED TO HANDICAP ME AGAINST ALL THE ACTORS THAT YOU WOULD HAVE COMPARED ME TO, WHEN WE FIRST STARTED, IT WOULD BE INTERESTING."

— Kevin Costner

FOR LOVE OF THE GAME

Sports-movie veteran Kevin Costner tackles the NFL in 'Draft Day,' reflects on the ups and downs of making films

BY STEVEN REA
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Kevin Costner is the general manager of the Cleveland Browns in his new movie, "Draft Day." The Ivan Reitman-directed project — a kind of gridiron "Moneyball" — takes place on that fateful spring day when the 32 teams in the NFL go hunting for the cream of the year's college crop, signing, trading, strategizing, looking to fill holes in their lineups and, hopefully, find the real talent out there, and the players their competition might have missed.

The NFL Draft has become a big deal in its own right, a spectator sport, with the successive rounds of picks taking place over a long weekend. (The 2014 draft: May 8-10 on the NFL Network.)

Costner, who has had a good run when it comes to sports movies — "Field of Dreams" and "Bull Durham" (baseball), "Tin Cup" (golf) — related to "Draft Day's" go-my-own-way protagonist, Sonny Weaver Jr., a GM being second-guessed by just about everyone from his coaches to his coworker and lover (Jennifer Garner) to his mom (Ellen Burstyn).

Costner, 59, has been in movies since the start of the '80s ("Frat Boy #1" in Ron Howard's "Night Shift" was an early job). He was Elliot Ness in "The Untouchables" (1987) and received best actor, director and picture Oscar nominations for his 1990 Lakota Indian epic, "Dances with Wolves." He won the directing and picture Academy Awards.

Costner did not miss the parallels between the handicapping, prospecting and deal-making that goes on in "Draft Day," and the handicapping, prospecting and deal-making that goes on in the movie biz.

"I'm sure, if people tried to handicap me against all the actors that you would have compared me to, when we first started, it would be interesting," the actor ruminates on the phone from Los Angeles recently. "How many have just fallen off the

cliff, so to speak — the ones that never went past one or two movies?

"How do you handicap that when you look at someone? You know, how do you measure it? You'd be mistaken if you did it by looks. You'd be mistaken if you did it by height. ... And you'd be mistaken if you did it by what everybody else said versus what you think."

He adds: "You have to analyze talent, and see if people have a genuine love. You know, if somebody's just in love with the red carpet, chances are that's what they're going to follow. They're just in love with the fame, and that quickly fades, because it's about longevity, it's not about the moment. If you just feel like you're going to be popular your whole life, that's unlikely."

Costner certainly has had his ups and downs. "Waterworld" (1995) and "The Postman" (1997) are famous flops; the History Channel's 2012 "Hatfields & McCoys" miniseries, a huge hit; the 2010 ensemble piece "Company Men," a critical hit. He was Clark Kent's adoptive dad in last year's "Superman" reboot, "Man of Steel."

So far in 2014, he's had three features in the multiplexes. Costner is a veteran CIA guy opposite Chris Pine in "Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit," released in January, and a veteran CIA guy opposite Amber Heard in February's "3 Days to Kill." In the former, he was a supporting role; in the latter, he was the star.

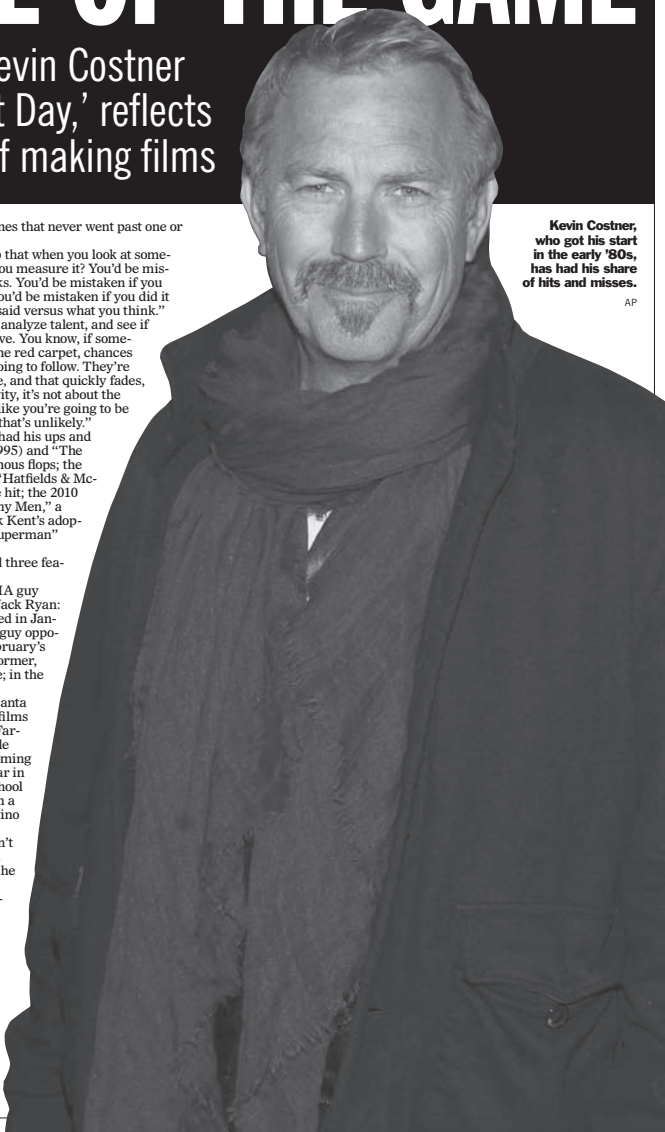
Costner, who lives in Santa Barbara, Calif., has two films in the bank. One is "McFarland," directed by "Whale Rider's" Niki Caro and coming from Disney, with the star in the title role — a high school track coach working with a group of mostly poor Latino kids whose families are farm laborers. "They don't have a lot going for them except their big hearts," he says. "So it's a true story about cross-country running here in California."

The other, "Black and White," is a contemporary drama with racism as its central theme. He financed the project himself.

"No one really wanted to make it, but I felt it was an important movie to make. And I thought it was very entertaining," he says.

Kevin Costner, who got his start in the early '80s, has had his share of hits and misses.

AP



WEEKEND: MOVIES



DALE ROBINETTE, SUMMIT ENTERTAINMENT/AF

Kevin Costner, left, and Jennifer Garner in a scene from the NFL- and ESPN-sanctioned dramedy "Draft Day."

Competent performer

Behind-the-scenes 'Draft Day' plays like late-round pick

BY ROGER MOORE

McClatchy-Tribune News Service

"Draft Day" is a "tickling clock" thriller built around the NFL Draft, a movie that counts down to the fateful decision that one embattled general manager (Kevin Costner) makes with his team's first-round pick. It's a reasonably interesting — to NFL fans, anyway — peek behind the curtains at the wheeling, dealing and over-thinking that goes on as teams and managers and coaches try to avoid looking as if they don't know what they're doing. They're nagged into making hasty or ill-advised decisions by agents and the players they represent, and showboating owners who like to "make a splash," get their faces on ESPN and impress the hometown folks with their football acumen.

The GMs have their own slang and their own swagger, which makes this a natural for Costner, for decades the movie's go-to guy for jock roles.

But for the casual fan and the casual filmgoer, it can be a bit of a melodramatic bore. This ticking-clock thriller doesn't really get going until the teams are truly "on the clock."

Costner is Sonny Weaver Jr., general manager for the hapless Cleveland Browns. They have an antsy owner (Frank Langella) and a new, preening coach (Denis Leary) who likes to flash his Super Bowl ring under everybody's nose. Will Frank pick a cocky, pushy linebacker (Chadwick Boseman of "42") or trade up to land the Heisman Trophy-winning quarterback (Josh Pence)?

What's fascinating in these wheeling-and-dealing early scenes is the way gossip

New on base

"Draft Day" is playing at the following military facilities:

Europe

Mildenhall, Ansbach, Baumholder, Grafenwöhr, Hohenfels, Ramstein, Spangdahlem, Stuttgart, Vilseck, Wiesbaden, Sigonella, Vicenza and Brunsum.

Pacific

Atsugi, Showboat, Benny Decker, Fleet, Negishi, Yokota, Zama (Sagamihara), Yongsan South Post No. 2, Casey, Henry, Humphreys, Kunsan, Osan, Foster, Futenma, Hansen, Keystone (Kadena), Kinser, Schwab and Courtney.

Online: draftdaythemovie.com

gets started, the way the veteran GMs play each other and read each other. Rumors about the Heisman winner bubble to the surface.

Sports talk radio covers this sort of "How much does he want to play?" stuff from a speculative point of view. "Draft Day" sets out to show how a Johnny Manziel or Jadeveon Clowney's stock rises and falls in the hours leading up to their big payday.

"You only get drafted once," Sonny tells his prospects. Better enjoy it. Sonny gathers intel from his staff and steels himself to make a decision he knows the owner will not like. Then more gossip comes in, and he's on the fence, which gets the coach all worked up. Everybody is playing the angles against everybody else.

What doesn't work is the added melodrama in all this. Sonny's dad used to be the Browns' coach. His dad just died. His mom (Oscar winner Ellen Burstyn) won't get off his back. And his not-that-secret inter-office romance (Jennifer Garner) just gave him some news.

"Draft Day" is an NFL- and ESPN-sanctioned dramedy designed to cash in on and maybe goose interest in the draft, which TV and the league have turned into a spring spectacle. It doesn't have a lot of rough edges to it, nothing unflattering to the league or the cable company in its back pocket, which only serves to remind us how this sport swallowed American sporting culture whole.

Costner and Garner are good and Langella properly menacing, but Leary has lost his fastball and seems to be holding back in his quarrel scenes with Costner. Costner has to carry the film, which he does. But he has a hard time making this tale of accountants and agents and athletes with off-field issues exciting.

Filling the screen with character players ranging from Chi McBride (a rival owner) to assorted NFL Network and ESPN (past and present) stars, shifting from city to city, stadium to stadium as the phone calls zip back and forth doesn't really reach up suspense or entertainment value.

But for the fans, it's a competent eye-opener, a movie that makes you understand Jets quarterback Geno Smith's fury at falling out of the first round and the sort of whispering campaigns that this closed culture of front-office folks mount to let them win in May, even if they don't win in the fall.

"Draft Day" is rated PG-13 for language and sexual references. Running time: 109 minutes.

Sports flicks are a good fit for Costner

Kevin Costner plays an NFL general manager in "Draft Day," the latest entry in the actor's long association with sports on film.

"Bull Durham" was a benchmark for Kevin Costner as an actor who fits seamlessly into Hollywood's musings on baseball. He cemented his role as baseball's everyman the following year, 1989, with "Field of Dreams," as a farmer who is visited by the ghosts of the sport's past, and returned to baseball in 1999 as a major-league pitcher in "For Love of the Game."

IMDb.com says he statistically has acted in more baseball-themed films than any other actor, except for Dennis Haysbert, who played Pedro Cerrano in all three "Major League" movies, as well as being in "Baseball" (1992). Counting the little-seen "Chasing Dreams," that would put Costner in a tie for the lead.

While we're talking Costner and sports, how could we forget "Tin Cup" and all of those shots into the drink?

Don't worry, we haven't forgotten. Here's a rundown of Kevin Costner's fictional sports movies:

1982 — "Chasing Dreams" (baseball): Although he has a small role, a DVD was released after "Field of Dreams" with his face spliced across the cover. The star was David G. Brown, a young man who finds comfort and a career in baseball.

1985 — "American Flyers" (bicycling): Costner plays a doctor who reunites with his estranged brother when he realizes a brain disease runs in their family. The brothers bond over cycling and decide to enter a grueling bike race through the Rocky Mountains.

1988 — "Bull Durham" (baseball): As Crash Davis, the aging catcher chasing the minor-league home run title, he was a showman who would never make it in "the show" but who found his niche while helping a young, talented pitcher (Tim Robbins). He also set off a few sparks with Susan Sarandon's baseball Annie.

1989 — "Field of Dreams" (baseball): A down-on-his-luck Iowa farmer answers a voice that tells him, "If you build it, they will come." He flattens his fields to create a baseball diamond, and the redeeming qualities of America's pastime take on otherworldly meanings and lead to a poignant father-son reunion.

1996 — "Tin Cup" (golf): Costner's Roy "Tin Cup" McAvoy is a free spirit who wants to live and play his way and has problems with rules. He has the talent to compete on the highest levels but not the temperament, unlike the champ and first-class jerk played by Don Johnson. Oh, and sparks fly with Rene Russo.

1999 — "For Love of the Game" (baseball): An aging major league pitcher flashes through his career as he gets a chance at love with Kelly Preston and one last chance at being pitch perfect on the mound.

1999 — "Play It to the Bone" (boxing): OK, this is pushing it. He plays himself as a fan at ringside in a movie that stars Woody Harrelson and Antonio Banderas as friends and former middleweight contenders who fight each other for the first time.

2014 — "Draft Day" (football): Costner moves into the front office as the Cleveland Browns' general manager. It's time for the NFL to draft, and he can make his team by going with the gut or doing what everyone is including the coach and owner, expects of him.

Next Season — "McFarland" (track): With a TBA release date, the Disney film is described by Variety as: "Based on a true story, Costner will play a coach, living in a predominantly Hispanic California town, who creates a high school track team that must overcome social and physical hurdles to become champions during the 1980s."

— Sharon Ebersohn/Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Check movie listings for base theaters at stripes.com/military-life

WEEKEND: MOVIES

An unseen evil

Unnerving 'Oculus' successfully skirts cliché

By MICHAEL O'SULLIVAN
The Washington Post

A good carpenter never blames his tools. But neither does he go out and buy a new hammer every time he makes a cabinet. Using the most tried and true of techniques and material, "Oculus" director Mike Flanagan has crafted a satisfyingly old-fashioned ghost story that, in its evocation of shivery dread, is the most unnerving poltergeist picture since "The Conjuring."

A remake of an earlier short — shot by Flanagan on the cheap in and around Baltimore in 2005 — "Oculus" is the story of a haunted antique mirror, known as the Lasser Glass. Over the centuries since its fabrication in 1754, dozens of owners have experienced madness and mysterious, often violent death. The movie depicts the efforts of two near-victims to destroy the cursed object.

The idea of an artifact inhabited by a malevolent supernatural entity is, of course, nothing new. Nor are such horror-movie tropes as the spooked dog, the staccato television set or camcorder surveillance (thank you, "Paranormal Activity"). Yet it's what Flanagan does with these well-worn tools that counts. The filmmaker doesn't break new ground, but he marshals each of these tools — and more — with the skill of a pro, laying down a fresh path through familiar territory and deftly striking cliché.

Brenton Thwaites and Karen

New on base

"Oculus" is playing at the following military facilities:

Europe

Mildenhall, Ansbach, Baumholder, Grafenwöhr, Ramstein, Spangdahlem, Stuttgart, Vilseck, Wiesbaden, Aviano, Vicenza and Brunsum.

Pacific

Yokota, Zama, Yongsan South Post No. 1, Casey, Henry, Humphreys, Kunsan, Osan, Foster, Futenma, Hansen, Kadena, Kinser, Schwab and Courtney.

Online: oculus2014.com

Gillan play 20-something siblings Tim and Kaylie, both of whom, as we see in flashback, were almost killed 10 years ago when their parents (Kate Sackhoff and Rory Cochrane) went bonkers after purchasing the mirror. In the intervening decade, Tim has been locked up in a mental facility for the killing of his father, while Kaylie has put her time to good use in tracking down the home accessory, which she blames for what happened.

Set just after Tim's release from the hospital, the movie is structured around Kaylie's elaborate plan to exonerate Tim by proving that the events of 10 years earlier were the results of the mirror's manipulative mind games. To this end, she has set

up video cameras and other high-tech equipment in their old house to document the activities of the mirror, out of which she hopes to lure whoever — or whatever — is possessing it. "Hello again," Kaylie whispers to this home furnishing from hell, adding tauntingly, "You must be hungry."

What Flanagan gets exactly right about this far-fetched scenario is that he never shows us the "you" Kaylie's talking to.

Juvenile actors Garrett Ryan and Annalise Basso play the sibling protagonists as children, popping up in the old house like they still live there — which, in a figurative sense, they do.

The younger actors appear both in flashback sequences and in scenes in which their characters seem to be interacting with their adult selves. Whether it's fantasy or mental illness is unclear.

That's the most satisfying aspect of "Oculus" — the way in which Flanagan plays on the power of imagination. Shunning traditional flashback techniques, he tells the story in a twisty, perception-distorting way that messes with the audience's heads as much as it does with Tim's and Kaylie's.

In that sense, using a mirror as the central metaphor for our darkest fears is a fairly brilliant strategy. When Kaylie and Tim look into the glass, of course, they see nothing but their own reflections.

"Oculus" is rated R for creepy, violent images and brief crude language. Running time: 85 minutes.



JOHN ESTES/Lasser Productions, LLC

Karen Gillan plays Kaylie, a 20-something trying to unlock the mysteries of a possessed and manipulative mirror, in "Oculus."

'Rio 2' is a bit too much — except for the music

By BETSY SHARKEY
Los Angeles Times

Wonderfully animated and well-voiced, "Rio 2" is nevertheless too much. Too much plot, too many issues, too many characters. But not too much music.

Yes, the musical numbers reach saturation levels, but the Latin-infused jamming and singing are absolutely fabulous. "Rio 2's" music might even save the 3-D animated adventure about endangered South American blue macaws from the terrible 2s that affect so many sequels.

The eclectic animal and human cast and respective star voices that "Rio" introduced in 2011 have all reconvened to continue the party. And the central troika responsible for "Rio's" progressive percussive sound — composer John Powell, executive music producer Sergio Mendes and Brazilian singer-songwriter Carlinhos Brown — are back and even better.

The movie starts with a massive new year's celebration that looks and sounds a lot like Carnival. The great-looking character style of the first has been further refined, filling this imaginary world with appealing faces and intricate plumage, color-bursting and completely in sync with the eye-popping frivolity going on, most of it seen from a

New on base

"Rio 2" is playing at the following military facilities:

Europe

Mildenhall, Ansbach, Baumholder, Grafenwöhr, Hohenfels, Ramstein, Spangdahlem, Stuttgart, Vilseck, Wiesbaden, Aviano, Sigonella, Vicenza and Brunsum.

Pacific

Atsugi, Showboat, Benny Decker, Negishi, Yokota, Zama, Yongsan South Post No. 1, Casey, Henry, Humphreys, Kunsan, Osan, Foster, Kadena, Kinser and Courtney.

Online: riomovies.com

bird's-eye view.

Those rare billing and coining macaws, Blu (Jesse Eisenberg) and Jewel (Anne Hathaway), have become quite domesticated while raising their expanding brood. The chicks — studious Bia (Amanda Stenberg), adventurous Tiago (Pierce Gagnon) and teenage Carla (Rachel Crow) — are in various stages of becoming their own bird, which sets up some family friction.

Blu's human friends, eco-activists Tullio

(Rodrigo Santoro) and Linda (Leslie Mann), are off in the Amazon trying to stop unlawful logging in the rain forest. When Tullio spots a random blue macaw feather, he becomes convinced there are more birds to be found. Word of the discovery hits the 24-hour news cycle and Jewel decides a search for a flock is as good a reason as any to give her citified kids a chance to connect with their inner wild thing. Blu, still nerdy after all these years, sporting a fanny pack using a GPS for navigation, is reluctant, but outnumbered.

This is merely director Carlos Saldanha's sometimes sluggish windup. Blu, Jewel, family and friends — Nico (Jamie Foxx), Pedro (Will.i.am), Rafael (George Lopez) and Luiz (Tracy Morgan) — are heading to the Amazon, too. Yoni Brenner's script is heading in a dozen different directions.

Things improve significantly when all the parties finally arrive in the Amazon, truly an animation paradise of possibilities from the dense undergrowth to the exotic creatures.

Meanwhile the illegal loggers log, Tullio and Linda protest, Jewel goes slightly wild, the kids go rogue and Blu loses his GPS. Whatever is a very blue macaw to do?

In trying to fly too high, "Rio 2" does too much flailing and floundering to soar. At least the music never misses a beat.

"Rio 2" is rated G. Running time: 101 minutes.

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THUR APR 24 WED APR 23
In Digital 3D: The Amazing Spider-Man 2: Rise of Electro (PG13) - Thur 16:00, 19:00, Fri & Sat 14:30, 17:30, 20:30, Sun & Mon 14:30, 17:15, 20:15, Tue & Wed 16:00, 19:00
Divergent (PG13) - Fri & Sat 17:15
Captain America: Winter Soldier (PG13) - Thur 17:45, 20:15, Fri 20:00, 22:30, Sat 17:30, 20:00, 22:30, Sun 17:30, 20:00, Tue & Wed 17:45, 20:15
Nash (PG13) - Fri & Mon 17:30
Rio 2 (G) - Thur 16:00, Fri 16:45, Sat & Sun 13:30, 16:45, Mon 15:45, Tue & Wed 16:00
In 2D: The Amazing Spider-Man 2: Rise of Electro (PG13) - Thur 17:00, 20:00, Fri & Sat 13:30, 16:30, 19:30, 22:30, Sun & Mon 13:30, 16:30, 19:30, Tue & Wed 17:00, 20:00
The Lego Movie (PG) - Fri & Mon 13:30

Scan Here or visit: www.broadwaykino.com/kmc

WEEKEND

Europe

THE EUROPE EXPERIENCE



COURTESY OF THE ALMEIDA THEATRE/AP

Actress Katie Brayben wears a mask that depicts Britain's Prince Charles during a scene from the play "King Charles III" at the Almeida Theatre in London. The new play about Britain's future king is getting rave reviews from critics.

SEE THIS:

British royalty lampooned

A new play about Britain's future king that once would have been theatrical treason is getting rave reviews. "King Charles III," running at London's Almeida Theatre, imagines the current heir, Prince Charles, taking the throne with catastrophic results.

Daily Mail critic Quentin Letts said the play "seems anxious to provoke a serious row" and accused it of coming close to defamation.

But most of Britain's newspapers applauded the play.

"Bold, brilliant and unstoppably entertaining," said Dominic Maxwell in The Times of London. Charles Spencer in the Daily Telegraph found it "spectacular, gripping ... moving as well as funny."

Mike Bartlett's "future history play" shows the new king, uncertain of his powers and moved by his conscience, refusing to sign a new law restricting press freedom. The king is surrounded by the affable Prince William, a steely Kate and the carousing Prince Harry. There is even the ghost of the late Diana, Princess of Wales, to haunt the proceedings.

John Snelson, a publications editor at the Royal Opera House, says that although there are still taboos related to depicting the royal family onstage, he's confident playwrights will keep returning to the topic.

"It's very much to do with how the individual relates to the role," he said. "That's where the drama comes through. Can they hack it?"

From The Associated Press

TOP TRAVEL PICKS

Beer in Bamberg

On Wednesday, Bamberg, Germany, celebrates its proud heritage as a town of breweries with its annual Beer Day.

According to information on the town's website, in the 19th century, the city could boast of being home to 65 breweries, giving it a unique standing within the Franconian region.

Today's generation of thirsty revelers will gather in Bamberg's Maxplatz to enjoy the rich variety of frothy treats the town's nine breweries continue to churn out, from wheats to pilsners, and, of course, the city's signature brew, smoke beer.

Those with an appreciation for unusual brews could also consider a longer stay in this UNESCO World Heritage site city or its environs. The city offers a package deal consisting of two nights' accommodation and breakfast; a Bamberg Card offering a city tour, entry to seven museums and exhibitions, and free use of city buses; a "Bierschmecker" beer-tasting tour, entry to the Franconian brewery museum (April to October only), and a traditional Schlenkerla brewery meal. The package is bookable year round, and prices begin at 116 euros (about \$161) per person based on double occupancy.

Learn more at <http://tinyurl.com/qxc384>. Information is available in English.



Karen Bradbury

See the Europe Traveler blog at stripes.com/travel/europe-travel



Middle Ages spectacle

Give the weekend's holiday celebrations a "days of yore" touch by dropping in on the Middle Ages-themed Easter Spectacle taking place through Monday at the hulking fortress alongside the Rhine River known as the Reduit in Mainz-Kastel, Germany.

Time travelers can visit a Roman encampment and view crafts and weapons typical to the period, watch brave knights in battle, or be entertained by court jesters, dancers and other merrymakers. Those interested in handicrafts of eras past can learn about paper-making or observe sculptors and goldsmiths at work.

Kids can play on a wooden carousel or see birds of prey close up. Cauldrons will bubble with soups, pork will roast on spits and freshly tapped beers

will be served in the tavern. As evening falls, torchlit stands will create a special atmosphere, creating the perfect backdrop for a fire show.

Adult entry costs 8 euros (about \$11); school-aged children with student IDS or those wearing appropriate Middle Ages-style garb pay half that. The market runs noon to 9 p.m. Saturday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday, and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday.

Download the PDF file (German only) at <http://tinyurl.com/nqbxk93>.

Holland dances

Love to dance? So does much of Holland, or so it seems: A "Dancetour" will be making its way through the country over the months to come.

The tour features 12 dancing events organized in public, open-air venues, kicking off with an event Sunday in Arnhem and concluding Sept. 4 in Doetinchem. Other host cities include Apeldoorn, Breda, Dordrecht, Goes, Leeuwarden, Lelystad, Maastricht, Roosendaal, Tilburg and Zwolle.

Organizers note the tour is expected to attract over 175,000 visitors during its run. Attendees are typically youthful, and students are well-represented.

The Dancetour will see some of the country's best DJs take to the stage to bring hours of music to the crowd. The dancing, not to

mention the love, harmony and friendship that come along with it, is absolutely free.

Learn more at <http://dancetoursite.livewall.nl/events>.

All things elves

The Netherlands' largest castle, the Kasteel de Haar, just west of Utrecht in Haarzuilens, will serve as the backdrop Saturday through Monday for Elfia, an annual elf fantasy fair that is billed as Europe's biggest fantasy event.

Costumes are an integral part of the festivities, and prizes for the best ones are up for grabs.

Registration for the Elfia Costume Parade on the Medieval Stage is available on site.

One of the judges of the parade this year will be Alexander Vlahos, who plays Mordred in the BBC series "Merlin." On Saturday and Sunday, Vlahos will sign autographs and give a talk about his adventures during the filming of the series.

Entry for the full three days costs 55 euros for adults and 28 euros for children ages 3-11 (younger children get in free all days). Entry for Saturday and Sunday each costs 22.50 euros for adults and 12.50 euros for children. Monday prices drop to 19 euros for adults and 11 euros for children.

Find ticket details and the program of speakers, music and jousting, at elfia.com.



ENNIO LEANZA, KEYSTONE/AP

POP IN FOR POP ART:

The Museum House Konstruktiv in Zurich is hosting an exhibition of the works of French painter and graphic designer Victor Vasarely, a key figure of the pop art movement of the 1960s. As a pioneer of kinetic art, Vasarely produced paintings and objects that change appearance when the observer moves. "Rediscovery of the Painter" focuses on the artist's painted works, spanning 1949-1979. The exhibition runs until May 18 but is closed Good Friday and Easter weekend. Find more information at the museum's website, hauskonstruktiv.ch.



Looking for even more to do? For additional events, concerts and activities, go to stripes.com/military-life

WEEKEND: QUICK TRIPS

Europe

Sublimely scenic

Basilica at Vicenza, Italy, hosts exhibit on history of landscapes

BY NANCY MONTGOMERY
Stars and Stripes

The turquoise-domed, white marble basilica that dominates Vicenza, Italy's, historical city center is a sight to behold. Massive and gleaming, it was designed in the 16th century by Andrea Palladio, a Vicenza native considered among the greatest architects in the history of Western civilization.

So you could just take in the basilica from a seat at a cafe table in the Piazza dei Signori, have a glass of wine or a cappuccino, and feel the spring sunshine on your face.

But you'd do even better to also get up and go inside. You'll find an exhibition of luminous landscape paintings that includes two rooms full of sublimely beautiful works by French Impressionist Claude Monet.

Yes, there are waterlilies.

There are also beaches, forests, meadows, volcanoes and a number of paintings of Venice by European and American artists.

The exhibit in the Vicenza municipal museum, stunningly located inside the basilica, features 101 works — scores of them quite famous — illustrating the history of the landscape in European and American art from the 17th to the early 20th century. The exhibit aims to show how the landscape moved from mere background to the subject itself, and the evolution from romantic representations to realistic to impressionistic, to, finally, Monet, who authorities say "strove to capture on canvas the very act of perceiving nature."

Both I and the Italian children on a school trip loved the American painter J.M.W. Turner's romantic "The Eruption of Soufriere on April 30, 1812," which was spectacular, both gorgeous and a little scary.

And it was great to see a winter landscape painted by Paul Gauguin — known best for his Tahitian women — and a dreamy depiction of Venice's St. Mark's



Courtesy of wikipedia.org

The exhibit "Verso Monet" (Around Monet) in Vicenza, Italy, includes two rooms of works by French Impressionist Claude Monet, including "The Beach at Trouville," 1870, above.

Square in pale blues and golds by James McNeill Whistler, best known for his mother.

I counted six Van Goghs in the exhibit, including one of blue olive trees titled "Uliveto," from 1889, touchingly signed "Vincent."

Then I got to the Monets and never wanted to leave. His method included painting the same scene many times, capturing the changing of light and the passing of the seasons. So there are several poppy fields, Rouen cathedrals and waterlilies, one more lovely than the next. But for my money — and I did buy a poster — there's nothing more beautiful than his San Giorgio Maggiore at dusk, from his only trip to Venice.

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PHOTOS BY NANCY MONTGOMERY/Stars and Stripes

The municipal museum in Vicenza, Italy, which is housed in the Basilica Palladiana, hosts the landscape exhibit until May 4.



Stars and Stripes

ON THE QT

DIRECTIONS

Address: Basilica Palladiana, Piazza Dei Signori 36100, Vicenza, Italy.

TIMES

The Verso Monet exhibition at the Vicenza city museum continues through May 4. Hours are 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday; closed Sunday.

COSTS

12 euros; 6 euros for minors and 9 euros for students with ID or those over 65.

FOOD

Numerous cafes and restaurants are close at hand.

INFORMATION

For an English-language guide to the exhibit, headsets are available. Basilica website: museivicivencenza.it/en/tbc/basilica_palladiana.php. Municipal museum website: museivicivencenza.it/en/mcp/index.php.

— Nancy Montgomery



The Basilica Palladiana, above and at right, is a sight to behold in itself with its white marble and Serlian arches.



WEEKEND: FOOD & DINING

Europe



PHOTOS BY JOHN VANDIVER/Stars and Stripes

The lunch buffet at the Ganesha Indian restaurant in Stuttgart, Germany, is a mix of curried dishes, featuring chicken and vegetables. It's a bargain at 6.90 euros.

After Hours: Germany

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

It's a restaurant I've frequented more than any other in my years in Stuttgart, Germany, and nine times out of 10 I've ordered the same thing.

I'm a sucker for the Chicken Bhindi at Ganesha, the ultimate destination for any Stuttgart resident who's a fan of Indian cuisine. Whether dining there or taking out, I can't seem to resist the spicy dish accented with ginger and rounded out with okra.

However, on a recent lunchtime excursion I decided to expand my experience and try the all-you-can-eat buffet. At a mere 6.90 euros, it was as astonishingly good as it was cheap.

The buffet isn't huge, but the selection is just right, with a range of flavorful curries served with various chicken and vegetarian combinations. The curried potatoes and chickpeas are particularly good.

Rice, naan, soup and salad also are offered.

Google tells me that Ganesha is the Hindu elephant god. The local chain of the same name has three restaurants in the area. I go to the eatery in the eastern part of Stuttgart because of its cozy atmosphere. The rooms are dark, incense is always burning and the walls are covered with all sorts of Hindu art and ornate sculptures of the gods.

The other Ganesha locations are in Stuttgart West and the town of Fellbach, on the north-eastern edge of Stuttgart. I've heard good things about those spots as well.

Around for 10 years, Ganesha is well established in the Stuttgart area, which is a good thing for anyone interested in spices in a land better known for Maultaschen and Spätzle.

vandiver.john@stripes.com



This painting of the god Shiva is among the Hindu-inspired art that diners will see at the restaurant.



Ganesha's entrance touts its all-you-can-eat buffet.

GANESHA

Address: Lembergstrasse 19, Stuttgart
Hours: 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. and 5:30-11:30 p.m. Mondays-Saturdays, noon to 11 p.m. Sundays and holidays.
Dress: Casual.
Cost: Most dishes are in the 10-euro range. The restaurant

also offers higher-end meals for two that include multiple courses for about 40 euros. I've never tried those offerings.
Menu: In English and German.
More information: Phone: (+49) (0) 711-4687981; website: ganesharestaurant.de

— John Vandiver



Indian works of art decorate the walls at Ganesha.

Easter treats make tasty adult drinks

By MICHELLE LOCKE
The Associated Press

Easter candy is dandy. But Easter candy paired with booze? Now that's something to put a spring in your step.

So we asked wine and spirits connoisseurs to come up with something the adults can sip on while the youngsters hunt for sugary splendors in the grass.

JELLY BEANS

Wine and chocolate can be a tricky pairing. But wine and fruity jelly beans? That can work.

Austin Hope, president of the Paso Robles' winery Hope Family Wines suggests a glass of Treana white wine with a hand-

ful, or two, of jelly beans. The wine is made up of equal parts marsanne and vigner grapes and has hints of almond and honey. Paired with fruit-flavored jelly beans—pear, orange, peach or lemon—the wine's crisp taste cuts through the sweetness of the candy.

Or if black licorice jelly beans are more your style, try them paired with a late bottled port.

PEEPS

Yes, the vividly hued marshmallow treats are a pairing challenge, but not an insurmountable one.

Daniel Cubicciotti, brand ambassador for port producers The Fladgate Partnership, suggests making a "PINK blossom," a cocktail made from mixing 3 ounces Croft PINK port and 1 ounce elderflower liqueur, then topping it with 2 ounces of a sparkling wine, such as Domaine Carneros Brut 2009. The bright berry flavors of the rose port add a spring freshness to the nostalgic sweetness of the chewy candies.

For a different take, Taryne Dixon, director of food and beverages at the Circa 59 restaurant in Palm Springs, Calif., suggests adding some bourbon to your basket with the Little Bo(urban) Peep cocktail.

In a cocktail shaker, mix one egg white (use pasteurized if raw eggs are a concern) with ¼ ounce Frangelico, shaking thoroughly to create a frothy

‘Nothing says Easter better than a cocktail with chicks and eggs.’

Taryne Dixon
Circa 59 restaurant
Palm Springs, Calif.

mix. Add 1½ ounces bourbon and 1 ounce amaretto, then top with ice, shake and strain into a martini glass. Garnish with the Peeps of your choice. The bourbon does a nice job of balancing out the sweetness of the Peep and the cordials, says Dixon.

"Plus, nothing says Easter better than a cocktail with chicks and eggs," he says.

And Nicole Trzaska of The Liberty bar in New York City has this suggestion

— mixing flavored vodka with chocolate liqueur for a candy-like concoction she calls the Peep-tini. Start by dipping the moistened rim of a chilled martini

glass in sugar to coat. Combine 1½ ounces Sobieski Lemon Meringue Vodka with ½ ounce white chocolate liqueur and 1 ounce heavy cream in an ice-filled shaker. Shake and strain into glass. Garnish with a Peep.

CABBURY CREME EGGS

Chocolate creme eggs come on strong with their milk chocolate shell and rich, gooey filling. So you want to look for a wine with some heft. Cubicciotti suggests a slightly chilled glass of Taylor Fladgate 10-year-old Tawny Porto to stand up to the richness of the candy with its rich, fruity flavors and notes of caramel. This fortified wine also would be a good match for Jordan Almonds.

HOLLOW CHOCOLATE EGGS

Trzaska has come up with a Sriracha spiced cocktail, the Hippy-Hot, that she says is "oddly delicious" with foil-wrapped hollow chocolate eggs (or a bunny). In a shaker, she mixes 1½ ounces vodka, ¼ ounce vanilla liqueur, ¼ ounce lime juice, ¼ ounce cranberry juice, a drizzle of Sriracha and a dash of simple syrup. Then shake, strain into a glass and garnish with a lime wheel.



A glass of Taylor Fladgate 10-year-old Tawny Porto is surrounded by milk chocolate Cadbury creme eggs.

WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Europe

A natural beauty

French isle of Corsica offers rocky landscapes and unspoiled elements

BY LEAH LARKIN

Special to Stars and Stripes

It was idyllic. A small hotel perched on a ridge at the edge of the sea with the Mediterranean waters gently slapping the rocks directly below the balcony of our room. After arrival, I immediately changed into my bathing suit and dashed to the hotel beach, just a minuscule patch of sand. The water was perfect. I swam and swam and swam, with no one in sight.

The Mediterranean island of Corsica is known for its beaches — much bigger than the tiny one adjacent to our hotel. Glorious expanses of golden sand interrupted by jagged, rocky cliffs stretch for miles along the east and west coasts of the land mass, the fourth-largest island in the Med and 110 miles south of mainland France. Secluded, romantic coves beckon — places where you are alone with nature.

Nature seems untarnished in Corsica. Both along the coast and in the mountainous interior are vast, pristine areas bordering on desolate: no towns, no hotels, no commerce. Of course, there are some lively and fun coastal cities.

But it's nature that attracts. Gil Chopin, proprietor of the coastal Hotel du Golfe in Tizzano, where we stayed, told me he was born in the town but worked in Paris and other cities. "I missed nature, the sea."

He came back. "We live in harmony with nature here," he said. "Each day is different. Each day I am astonished. For me, this is paradise."

Tizzano, our home for five days in early October, is indeed a bit of paradise, one winding road down the mountain from the inland town of Sartène. Winter Tizzano population: 30 humans and lots of felines. In summer: 3,000 tourists. In October: husband Bicycle Bob and me, the locals, a few other tourists and the friendly cats. All four of the town's restaurants were shut. We made do with picnics on the hotel balcony, enjoying soothing views of the Med.

That was the downside of an October visit. Many shops, hotels and restaurants had already closed for the season. However, we were blessed with still warm weather and mostly blue skies — and tranquility.

Besides all the water activities — swimming, sailing, surfing, kayaking, diving — Corsica gets top ratings for hiking. It is one of few places where you can conquer a mountain trail in the morning, then cool off in crystal seas the same afternoon.

The Grande Randonnée 20 is the island's famous trek, a 110-mile trail that takes at least



PHOTOS BY LEAH LARKIN/Special to Stars and Stripes

On the French island of Corsica, rocky fingers along the coast seem to grow out of the sea.



The harbor at Erbalunga, an old fishing village on Cap Corse.

15 days to complete. But there are many shorter, spectacular hikes, as well as opportunities for more challenging adventure, such as canyoning, rock climbing, mountain biking, zip lining and rafting.

We set off to Lac de Melu in the Vallée de la Restonica, a pretty river valley amid gray-green mountains near the interior town of Corte. According to my "Lonely Planet" guidebook and the sign posted at the beginning of the trail, it was a one-hour trek to the lake. Maybe for Himalayan Sherpa. We scrambled over rocks huffing and puffing for more than two hours before reaching the elusive mountain lake.

Rocks abound in Corsica—not

where thyme, lavender and sage flourish.

There were even more rocks at the Filitosa archaeological site, where we stopped en route to Tizzano after disembarking from our overnight ferry ride at Ajaccio, Corsica's largest town and the birthplace of Napoleon Bonaparte. Artifacts dating to as early as 3300 B.C. have been found at Filitosa, where ancient civilizations lived in caves. During the megalithic period they erected menhir statues, granite monoliths, carved to represent human faces or entire figures.

Bonifacio, an amazing two-level town in the far southwestern corner of the island, perches precariously atop a rock cliff on a thin peninsula. Skinny streets twist past ancient buildings, including numerous churches, in the *haute ville*, or upper town. We took on the challenge of the Escalier du Roi d'Aragon (King of Aragon's Stairway): 187

CONTINUED ON PAGE 31



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WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Europe

KNOW & GO

Getting there

Flights to Corsica's principal cities (Ajaccio, Bastia and Figari) are available from many European cities. From Nice, Toulon and Marseille in France, as well as Genoa, Livorno and Savona in Italy, ferry service is offered, both overnight trips and faster voyages on high-speed hydrojets. Ferries also run between Corsica and Sardinia.

Accommodations

Besides hotels, Corsica offers *gîtes d'étape* (hikers lodges), *chambres d'hôtes* (bed and breakfasts), and camping sites. Prices for all are higher in July and August. Recommendations:

- **Hotel du Golfe**, Tizzano (hoteldugolfetizzano.com). A perfect coastal retreat. The simple but comfortable rooms all have balconies above the Med.

- **Hotel Castel Brando** (castelbrando.com). Ethelungu, Cap Corse. Spacious accommodations including rooms with private terraces, a lovely garden for breakfast, including do-it-yourself eggs and pancakes, and a super heated pool.

More information

Tourist season runs from March through October, although we found much was already shut down for the season in October. July and August are high season.

—Leah Larkin

FROM PAGE 30

scary, steep steps that plummet straight down to the sea.

Cap Corse, the island finger at the northern tip, was our destination for three days before we boarded the ferry in Bastia, a city at the base of the finger, for the trip back to Toulon, the French coastal town where our Corsican journey began.

We drove along the Cap coast and through the middle of the peninsula over roads that averaged more than a dozen curves per kilometer and led past the island's grape-growing area. Wine is the island's main export.

Bastia, a town of crumbling splendor, is fun to explore, with a busy harbor, imposing citadel, inviting hillside park, ancient churches — and shops that were open. Throughout the trip I had been searching for stores where I could purchase Corsican delicacies — cheese, sausage, honey, jams. No luck. In Bastia's thriving shopping district, I found my treasures at last.

Years ago I visited Corsica with friends. We traveled around the island by Zodiac, a big rubber boat with an outboard motor, and camped on shore at night. Back then, I met a German resident of the island.

"We don't have what Majorca offers, such as bratwurst and English breakfast," he said. "People either like it here the way it is or never come again," he said.

I loved it and am glad I could return to marvel at Corsica's dramatic scenery and enjoy its untamed, rugged splendor.

Leah Larkin lives in France and can be contacted through her website, leahlarkin.com, or blog address, <http://talesandtravel.com>.



LEAH LARKIN/Special to Stars and Stripes

Steep stairs at the Escalier du Roi d'Aragon in Bonifacio offer a breathtaking descent to the sea.



Restaurant Directory



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WEEKEND

Pacific

THE PACIFIC EXPERIENCE



Courtesy of Tatebayashi City Sightseeing Association

SEE THIS: Carp streamers in Japan, Okinawa

Until May 9, more than 5,000 koinobori — carp streamers — hang over the Tsurudagawa River in Tatebayashi city, Japan, for Tatebayashi Koinobori Matsuri. The streamers are part of Children's Day, celebrated May 5 during Golden Week in Japan, a series of national holidays that includes Showa Day on April 29 and Greenery Day on May 4. During the week, resorts and entertainment centers are crowded as many Japanese workers have time off. Other koinobori events include Hijiyagawa Koinobori Festival on April 27 with 200 koinobori on Okinawa and one at Ueno German Culture Village May 3 to 5, featuring streamers designed by kindergartners and nursery school students in Miyakojima Island.



Norio Muroi/Stars and Stripes

A visitor enjoys the view from a summerhouse at Haraden Garden in Kyoto, Japan. This garden — now open through April 25 — is only open to the public during cherry blossom and autumn leaves seasons.

CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVALS

The Japan Meteorological Agency predicts cherry blossom trees will begin blooming April 24 in Aomori, Japan. For a forecast for Japan: tinyurl.com/jntosakura. For more events in Japan and South Korea: stripes.com/bloom

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OFF BASE



MCT

BLEACHER SEATS:
Tokyo Big Six Baseball League

See this intercollegiate baseball league through June 1 at Jingu Stadium, a four-minute walk from JR Sendagaya Station on Sobu-Line or four-minute walk from Kokuritsu Kyogijo Station on Oedo-Line.

IT'S ELECTRIC:
Bright 5K
in Seoul, South Korea

This event at Seoul World Cup Park & Sky Park bills itself as "the world's premier nighttime 5K run/walk experience." Participants get an LED bracelet and glow necklace and sunglasses. It's May 10; register by May 2. For more: electricrun.com.

ON BASE

Japan

Run the Cherry Blossom 5K at Halsey Gym with **Atsugi Athletics** on April 25. Visit Washi Village, Sake Brewery and Kawagoe on April 27 with **Abugi ITT** tours. **Yokosuka** Single Sailor Liberty Program has an Ikego hike on April 26. Go whitewater rafting with **Camp Zama** Outdoor Recreation Center on May 10.

Guam

Zumba at Arc Light Park at 4:30 April 21 at **Andersen Air Force Base**.

Okinawa

See the lily festival at le Island on April 26 with tours from **Camp Foster** and **Kadena** ITT.



AP

IN CONCERT

Catch Paul McCartney in Tokyo at National Stadium on May 17 and 18; and in Seoul, South Korea, at Jamsil Sports Complex Main Stadium on May 28.

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WEEKEND: TRAVEL



FAR AND AWAY ADVENTURES/AP

Campers enjoy some wine on a "glamping" — glamour camping — expedition along Idaho's Salmon River.

Made-up words to travel by

By BETH J. HARPAZ
The Associated Press

Hotels advertise "bleisure" packages. The Thai Tourism Authority is promoting "honeyteering."

Whatever you're doing on vacation, chances are there's a made-up word to describe it. Combine honeymoon and volunteering, you get honeyteering. Combine business and leisure, you get bleisure. Add glamour to a camping trip with wine, steak and scented candles, and you're glamping.

Lexicographers call these blended words portmanteaus. The travel industry doesn't have a monopoly on them — think "brunch."

But they do "come in handy in a business sector where there's often a need to come up with clever marketing spin,"

said Ben Zimmer, executive producer of Vocabulary.com and language columnist for The Wall Street Journal. "It's niche marketing. You're trying to appeal to different sectors of the public: 'Well, we have a special kind of tourism for you and it has a special name.'"

Other examples: voluntourism, ecotourism and mancation — the latter, describing a guys' getaway, popularized by Vince Vaughn in the 2006 movie "The Break-Up." And while the word honeymoon is centuries-old, one of the first cited references to babyoons — a couple's trip before the first baby — was in a 2004 promotion for luxury resorts.

Sometimes heavy marketing can make these blends seem like "stunt words," said Katherine Connor Martin, head of U.S. Dictionaries for Oxford University Press, which publishes the Oxford English Dictionary. "They're so cute and self-con-

scious."

Their overuse can even lead to a backlash, as with staycations, a term that often elicits an "UGH!" response — mainly because most of us would rather go away than stay home if we could afford it. The word staycations was used before the recession, but it was only when people cut back on vacations during the economic slowdown that destinations started using the term to market themselves to locals.

"It was trying to take a bleak economic picture and make it into something happy," Zimmer said. "It had a euphemistic sound."

The suffix "-cation" is also well-suited to blends, especially if you come up with a term that rhymes with vacations. And so, in addition to staycations and gaycations, there are nakations at nudist colonies, hurrications if you leave town ahead of a storm, and playcations, just for fun.



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WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Pacific

The rhythm of the islands

Traditional Hawaiian music wafts from dives to trendy resorts on Oahu

By JOSH NOEL
Chicago Tribune

Every few songs it would happen: The ukulele launched into a furious strum, the bass began to gallop, the guitar jangled to life, and the three powerful voices behind those instruments erupted into a harmonious whirl. Then someone danced.

There was no telling which songs would send a he or a she into a barroom spin to a roomful of cheers. At least there was no telling for a visitor from the mainland venturing out of Oahu's tourist bubble to catch some authentic Hawaiian music.

"Oh, someone's going to dance to this one," said Cody Pueo Pata, a semiretired Hawaiian entertainer and recording artist, as we sat in a booth at Chiko's Tavern, a dim dive bar where the band had just launched into "Pua Ahiihi."

Sure enough, a woman with a long brown ponytail glided to the front of the room and began spinning slowly, arms raised in the air, smile affixed to her face. When she finished, she kissed each of the four band members on the cheek and returned to her table.

Pata, cradling a bottle of Heineken, explained: "This music has never changed through four or five generations. It's our comfort."

The thought of Hawaiian music might evoke images of men in leis gently strumming songs for sun-baked tourists in Waikiki, and, well, it is sort of that. But on intensely musical Oahu, live Hawaiian music can be found nearly every night and in all directions: the coastal resorts, the small-town bars, the dives of Honolulu and, yes, Waikiki, for the tourist masses.

Hawaiian music is a lush, languorous sound wholly its own, but it also bears obvious ties to the folk, bluegrass, country and even mariachi genres. Its appeal is both in selecting and fitting so seamlessly into the islands from where it comes.

Waikiki supplies some of the most traditional renderings of Hawaiian music, such as slack-key guitar master Cyril Pahinui, whose gentle strums can be found every Wednesday at the waterfront Outrigger Reef Hotel.

The Wednesday I found Pahinui, he wore a red button-front shirt and white lei, as did his fellow players — men on steel and acoustic guitar — at a small stage near the hotel pool on a warm January evening.

Between sets, I approached the stage, where Tom Campbell was



PHOTOS BY JOSH NOEL/Chicago Tribune

Hawaiian music group Kekaniwai plays in the heart of Waikiki with hula dancers every Wednesday.

buying Pahinui's latest CD and telling him, "We can't get this back in Minnesota!"

"I'm sitting over there listening to that steel guitar, thinking, 'Oh my God, I have to take that home,'" said Campbell, of Minneapolis. "I can't take the flowers back, and I can't take the smells back, but I can take the music back."

Waikiki hotels do an admirable job of supporting traditional Hawaiian music; the Outrigger Reef is among the hot spots, with

nightly concerts. And the band Kekaniwai, a trio of men dressed in black with red leis, plays on Wednesday afternoons on a patio behind the Embassy Suites Waikiki Beach Walk, accompanied by hula dancers.

But to find the music played by locals for locals, head into town to a place like Corner Kitchen, the self-billed "musician's playground." Corner Kitchen features live music several nights of the week, and virtually all of the players have won a Na Hoku Hanohano award, the Hawaiian version of a Grammy. The restaurant sits just outside Waikiki but is a local haunt.

The evening I visited, Hoku Zuttermister, who plays ukulele and guitar, strummed through a

series of gentle Hawaiian classics with a bass player at his side. Every other song or so, Zuttermister's vocals would reach into a looping falsetto, a tenet of Hawaiian music.

After the show, Zuttermister told me that, like many Hawaiians, he grew up surrounded by traditional Hawaiian music. But early in his career, it was difficult to play publicly.

"At one point you couldn't find Hawaiian music anywhere," Zuttermister said. "Then the clubs came in and it's starting to come back a little bit."

Where it has come back strong

gest is in the bars of Honolulu. Those are home to a fluid scene of musicians who swap in and out of multiple bands.

The night after Corner Kitchen, I visited Imua Lounge, a bar tucked into a strip mall about two miles from the heart of Waikiki. It's the kind of place you could find only by seeking it out, and it was culturally riveting.

I took a seat at the bar and ordered a Guinness. There wasn't an open booth in the house, and if there were any other tourists there, I couldn't pick them out.

There were just four instruments — ukulele, upright bass



Hoku Zuttermister performs at Corner Kitchen, a restaurant in Honolulu where local musicians play most nights.

KNOW & GO

• **While on Oahu, pick up Pulse** (honolulupulse.com), a free entertainment newspaper produced by the Honolulu Star-Advertiser, which offers current music listings.

and acoustic and steel guitars — but the musicians' frenetic strumming created a positively huge sound, like the joyful rumble of a musical freight train.

The next night I met up with Pata, who now focuses on Hawaiian arts education, at Chiko's, another delightfully dim Honolulu bar. That night's band also featured Ho'o, this time with different guitar and bass players, though the same steel guitar player sat in with them.

It was another gloriously raw and festive scene, the band plowing through its set and the crowd taking turns twirling to the jangly roar. It was difficult to imagine mainlanders singing and dancing to the songs that also mattered to their grandparents.

The Hawaiian song catalog is hundreds of songs deep, and most of the players know most of the songs. Hence, they're able to create fluid set lists that sound almost like one long song.

"We all know the songs," Pata said. "We all love the songs."

WEEKEND: FOOD & DINING

Pacific



PHOTOS BY TRAVIS J. TRITTEN/Stars and Stripes

Above: A miso-flavored eggplant and pork dish, left, and the Seaside club sandwich are highlights of the Seaside Drive-In's menu. Right: A jukebox helps set the retro American mood.

After Hours: Japan

BY TRAVIS J. TRITTEN
Stars and Stripes

When it comes to restaurants, some say location is everything. But having a great hamburger sure helps.

The Seaside Drive-In along central Okinawa's western coast is the place to go if you're searching for both.

The 24-hour diner is tucked away in the village of Nakadomari, just south of the island's Moon Beach, and offers dining with a panoramic view of the coast.

It's a relatively convenient stop along the way to sites farther

north, such as Busena Marine Park or, if you're into long scenic drives off the expressway, even the Churaumi Aquarium. The round-the-clock service also makes for a hassle-free food stop if you are leaving early or returning late.

First opened in 1965, the diner appears to be influenced by U.S.-style eateries with its food, atmosphere and hours. The burgers and club sandwiches get star billing, and there is a breakfast menu with sunny side-up eggs, bacon and omelets available until 11 a.m.

There is a jukebox, a large pink Cadillac wall sign and a huge collection of model Ameri-

can cars in glass showcases.

But spend a few minutes in the Seaside and you'll quickly find it's much more.

There is a range of burgers and sandwiches, but the menu also offers Chinese dishes, spaghetti plates, traditional Japanese sushi and tempura ... and cheesecake.

The diner's large cheeseburgers definitely live up to the menu hype. The patties are juicy and come on a freshly baked oversized bun with onion, cucumber and lettuce on the side.

The downfall of some hamburgers is an overloaded bun that causes the sandwich to become structurally unsound after the first couple of bites. But the Seaside burgers' big buns not only allowed a firm grip on the meat and toppings, they also tasted great.

On a recent visit, I also had the signature Seaside club sandwich with ham, cheese, lettuce and tomato. Again the diner scored high with a well-made, well-presented and tasty staple of sandwich menus.

Of course, I didn't want to neglect the more traditional Japanese dishes. The restaurant's stir-fry dish of eggplant, pork and tofu in a miso paste sauce was satisfying, not only for its rich flavor but also for its large portion size.



When dining out, it's nice to sometimes order a dish you can't find elsewhere. The Seaside's quirkier menu item might be its taco balls. Spicy ground beef is wrapped in dough and deep fried. The result is a golden crispy ball that tastes remarkably similar to a Taco Bell *gordita* — in a good way!

With so many pricey dining options on Okinawa, one of the

Seaside Drive-In's most attractive features might also be its relatively cheap prices. The large cheeseburgers are 500 yen (about \$5) and smaller burgers are about 250 yen. Large entrees will cost about 1,000 yen (or about \$10).

So while you enjoy a view of the beach and ocean, you won't have to be dreading the bill.

tritten.travis@stripes.com



Two glass cases of model vintage cars are on display at the diner.

SEASIDE DRIVE-IN

Directions: Take Route 58 north from Kadena Air Base past the Yomitan area. You will pass Ryukyu Mura. At Nakadomari take a left on Route 6 and continue straight through the village's traffic light. You will pass a middle school on the left. The diner is shortly past the school on the left.

Hours: Open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Breakfast is served 5-11 a.m.

Food: American-style sand-

wiches, Japanese and Chinese dishes, cake.

Cost: Small sandwiches range from 230 yen to 500 yen.

Japanese and Chinese entrees cost between 900 and 1,300 yen. Breakfast plates are 900 to 1,100 yen.

Phone: 098-964-2272

Clientele: Local Japanese and some tourists.

Dress: Casual.

Website: seaside-drivein.com/index.html

— Travis J. Tritten

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WEEKEND: MUSIC

Appreciation

Jesse Winchester was revered by songwriters

By RANDY LEWIS
Los Angeles Times

It was an offhanded comment by singer-songwriter Jesse Winchester, but it stopped Elvis Costello cold when he was chatting with Winchester for his short-lived music-interview series "Spectacle" on the Sundance Channel a few years ago.

In an aside, the inordinately gifted songwriter casually identified "The Brand New Tennessee Waltz" (one of the first songs for which he'd gained acclaim in the early 1970s) as the first song he'd ever written. Then he nonchalantly moved on to finish the main point he was making about the art of writing songs.

Costello interrupted, in utter disbelief: "You mean to say that was actually the first song you ever wrote?" He knew all too well that it had been widely recorded by artists including Joan Baez, the Everly Brothers, Ralph Stanley and Patti Page, whose 1950 "Tennessee Waltz" was the reference point for Winchester's song.

Winchester, who died on April 11 at age 69 from bladder cancer, smiled and nodded sheepishly. It was characteristic of the disarming and endearing humility of a man lauded by other musicians and critics but who left little footprint of his own on the masses.

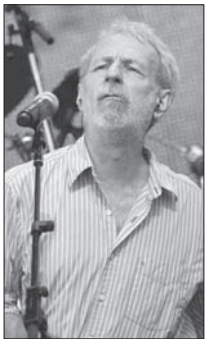
During his performance on that show — a roundtable session that also featured Sheryl Crow, Neko Case, Ron Sexsmith and Costello — Winchester brought Case to tears with one of his most recent songs, "Sham-A-Ling-Dong-Ding," a sweet reflection on the power of the seemingly silly songs people latch onto in their teens.

"That's it Jesse, the show's over," Costello said shortly after his performance. "You've finished me off — again."

Of the dozen or so albums Winchester released over a stretch of 40 years starting in 1970, none cracked the Top 100 of Billboard's national sales chart. His most successful was 1977's "Nothin' But a Breeze," which reached No. 115. He placed just two singles on the Billboard Hot 100, including the album's title track, which peaked at No. 86 in 1977. The closest he ever came to a hit of his own was "Talk Memphis," which reached No. 32 in 1981.

But among other songwriters, he was a revered figure.

Jimmy Buffett recorded several of his songs and regularly performed Winchester's "Biloxi" in concert. Emmylou Harris recorded his "Defying Gravity," and Wynonna Judd, with her mother Naomi along for a mini-Judds reunion in 1999, took on his song "That's What Makes You Strong." The Mavericks had a Top 20 country hit in 1994 with "O What a Thrill," and George Strait did a version of "A Showman's Life."



AP

Singer-songwriter Jesse Winchester, who wrote songs covered by the likes of Elvis Costello, Jimmy Buffett and Joan Baez, died April 11 of cancer.

Sometimes, the love he got from other musicians wasn't all it was cracked up to be.

"I can remember I did a brief tour with Jimmy Buffett, opening for him," Winchester told CMT News in 1999. "He's recorded several of my tunes. Anyway, I began to play one of them in my set and people in the audience were annoyed with me because they thought I was singing one of Jimmy's songs. It's the kind of the story of my life."

He was born and raised in the South, and spent much of his early life in Memphis, Tenn., and across the state line in Mississippi, but Winchester moved to Canada in 1967 to avoid being drafted during the Vietnam War.

Later he said he believed there were times it was right to fight for one's country, but at 22, he didn't think that was his time. He was discovered in 1970 by The Band's lead guitarist, Robbie Robertson, who produced his acclaimed debut album that year. That recording led to a major-label deal in the U.S. with Bearsville, one of the Warner Bros. family of labels.

In 1977, President Jimmy Carter issued a blanket pardon for U.S. citizens who left the country during the Vietnam War, and Winchester resumed touring but continued living in Canada.

Many of the songs he wrote while living in exile from his native country touched on the facets of life he missed, among them "Yankee Lady," "Mississippi You're on My Mind" and "Talk Memphis."

Several of those turned up on the 2012 album "Quiet About It: A Tribute to Jesse Winchester," which featured Costello and Harris along with Lucinda Williams, James Taylor, Rosanne Cash, Lyle Lovett, Vince Gill, Allen Toussaint and others.

NEW ALBUMS



Photos courtesy of New West Records

Luther Dickinson

Rock 'n Roll Blues (New West)

Tennessee-born guitarist Luther Dickinson has a new album out, and he also is part of the all-star Southern Soul Assembly. Son of Memphis studio legend Jim Dickinson (on recordings by such as Dylan, the Stones and Aretha), Luther earned his own studio fame with R.L. Burnside and the Replacements before kicking out the jams with the Black Crowes, the North Mississippi Allstars, and his own blunt-force country-blues solo albums.

"Rock 'n Roll Blues" is a slice of good-old-fashioned Americana soaked in spooky backwater har-



monies ("Goin' Country") and Kentucky bluegrass openness ("Bar Band"). But, like those songs, the rest of Dickinson's latest has its wild variations on

familiar, even stark, themes (as on "Vandalize"). That's his thing. On acoustic tracks, Dickinson sounds as if he just happened onto a lawn party and stayed to boogie, soft and sweetly ("Mojo, Mojo"), hard (the country swing of "Yard Man"), and harder (his distorted acoustics on "Some Ol' Day"). Most impressive is Dickinson's storytelling: He fills this album with tall tales, silly asides, and seemingly personal moments, forlorn and loving, as on the record's fingerpicked, waltzing closer, "Karmic Debt," featuring winsome lyrics of deep romance and respect.

— A.D. Amorosi
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Rodney Crowell

Tarpaper Sky (New West)

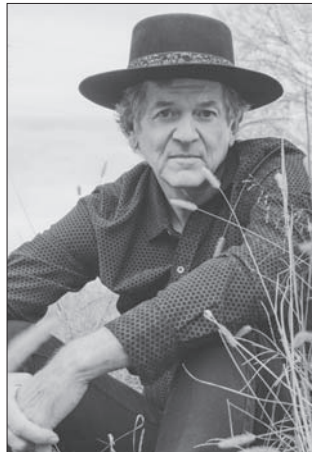
At 63, Rodney Crowell's ready to cross over. On "Frankie Please," a highlight on his new album, the Nashville singer-songwriter tosses out rhymes like some prolific young rapper: "Your p's and q's and don't and do's are all the news to light my fuse."

Don't worry — Crowell doesn't rap. Instead, he pairs the rat-a-tat lyrics with a Chuck Berry-style tune. It's good fun.

The 10 other tracks on "Tarpaper Sky" also find Crowell in fine form. The album has been in the works since 2010, when Crowell began recording with some of the musicians who contributed to his 1988 breakthrough, "Diamonds & Dirt," including stellar guitarist Stuart Smith. Other projects delayed completion, but the new album is worth the wait.

Crowell reflects on the harmony of friendship and the rhythm of life, but mostly has women on his mind. "Tarpaper Sky" is about love, lust, loyalty, longing and the good songs they can inspire.

— Steven Wine
The Associated Press



Photos courtesy of New West Records

WEEKEND: MUSIC

Shakira performs on NBC's "Today" show on March 26 in New York.

CHARLES SYKES, INVISION/AP

Shakira continues to captivate with stylistically diverse album

By Allison Stewart
Special to The Washington Post

Is there anyone alive who doesn't have a special, secret fondness for Shakira? Besides maybe that famously angry sea lion who attacked the singer in 2012 and was presumably unaware of her selfless work with the United Nations and had probably never even heard "She Wolf," because he would have really liked it.

Everyone else seems to have long ago succumbed to Shakira's hip-swiveling charms. She's an avatar of pop-culture globalization — a Colombian singer-songwriter of Lebanese descent whose songs are a multicultural grab bag of melodies from the Middle East, Africa, Latin America and, most prominently on her new, self-titled album, the American South. She's a social-media giant. Statues have been erected in her honor. (Okay, one statue. Made of metal, not the hand-chiseled marble she deserves. And it depicts Shakira wearing pants she probably would never wear. But it's a start.)

Shakira has weird, very specific tastes: "Shakira" is not her first album to feature near-lethal doses of reggae and '90s alt-rock, as if she hasn't realized that those things are mostly awful. Yet she also has the broadest canvas of any pop diva in memory — she can contain multitudes, from cumbia to country, and still sound instantly, recognizably like herself.

"Shakira" (RCA), her charming, awkward, immensely appealing new disc, tests this theory. It was assembled by a murderers' row of expensive producers and writers, including Dr. Luke, Max Martin and Cirkut. Any student of recent pop history knows what comes next: dignity-killing, one-size-fits-all dance-pop songs predestined for success and oblivion in the same month.

Shakira submits to Dr. Luke's dehumanizing ministrations and manages to come out the other end sounding only slightly less like herself. "Dare (La La La)" doubles as the background music for Shakira's new commercial for Activia yogurt, and it sounds like something Lady Gaga would have

made before she became ridiculous. It's wonderful.

Most of the rest of "Shakira" seems like an uneasy bargain between what she wants (rootsy, often acoustic-based pop with a rangy feel and an affinity for early Alanis Morissette) and what the producers want (hits). It's familiar territory for the singer, who has routinely employed of-the-moment production teams to contemporize (and Americanize) her sound, but seldom has the divide seemed so great.

The best tracks split the difference: The new wave/reggae hybrid "Can't Remember to Forget You" is an energetic duet with Rihanna, pop's favorite inanimate object. "Loca por Ti" is '80s jukebox country, finely rendered. The midtempo Latin pop track "You Don't Care About Me" recalls vintage Marc Anthony.

Shakira has four fully formed emotions — Reproachful, Cheery, Let's Dance and I Want to Do Things to You. That's two more than Dr. Luke usually has to work with, and she also has a voice that's hiccupy and distal, especially at the



wildest, warblest reaches of her register. To make Shakira sound like everybody else takes some effort. On the disc's weakest track, "Spotlight," she sounds unerringly, depressingly, like Taylor Swift;

the song sounds like a reheated "Red" outtake, and the vocal similarity is too marked to be accidental.

Shakira's comfort level seems to ebb and flow throughout the album: She's commanding on the Spanish-language songs, playful on the bangers, subdued on the songs that are obviously ill-suited for her, such as the Nashville ballad "Medicine," a collaboration with Blake Shelton, her fellow judge on "The Voice." It's one of those duets where two famous people from different genres are joined by their business managers in pursuit of a crossover hit. They sing at each other and both sound as if they'd rather be anywhere else. Shelton, also at half-wattage, treats her with unusual delicacy, as if he was enlisted partly for his hit-making skills and partly to stop her from running away.

Still CHARMING

WEEKEND: VIDEO GAMES

Long live nostalgia

‘Mercenary Kings’ an enjoyable throwback to gaming’s past

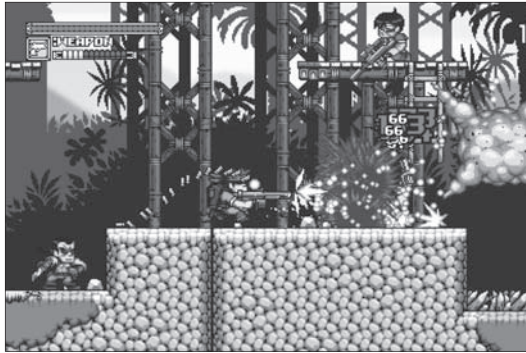
By MATT MILLER

Game Informer Magazine

When certain games release, you find yourself wondering why more developers haven’t done the same thing before. “Mercenary Kings” is one of those games. While few inherently new ideas are at play in Tribute’s latest project, the combined whole is an impressive effort that mixes classic shooting (inspired by games like “Metal Slug” or “Mega Man”) and injects some of the customization, storytelling, and ancillary mechanics more prevalent in modern games. Whether playing alone or with friends, this massive adventure should keep most players busy for hours.

You are one of the Kings, a mercenary force brought back to life through a secret scientific formula to rid a tropical island of the terrorist threat named CLAW. Before each mission, you wander through camp purchasing first aid kits, equipping new bionic mods, and customizing equipment. Once your soldier is up to snuff, you tackle missions that have you rescuing hostages, taking down giant robotic bosses, gathering supplies, or infiltrating ancient temples. More than 100 missions are available, but many of these outings see you returning to the same maps again and again. While all of “Mercenary Kings” maps are suitably large, it’s a grind coming back to the same location the seventh or eighth time.

The level designs and enemy placements are top notch, exhibiting a strong sense of gradual challenge curve that always keeps players on their toes, whether through tough platforming, challenging baddies or a severe time limit. More than 100 distinct enemy types await your at-



MCT

“Mercenary Kings” is a masterpiece of old-school 2-D presentation, filled with clever nods to older games, but with a distinct style and backgrounds all its own.

tack, constantly demanding new tactics. The shooting mechanic feels purposefully stiff, only allowing you to shoot in straight lines up and down or left and right — a direct homage to the games that inspired “Mercenary Kings.” Little touches like an active reload system (a la “Gears of War”) add a modern touch, forcing you to time your shots and movement to coincide with when bullets remain in your magazine.

While a number of boss models are repeated or show up in only minor variations, they are usually excellent fights.

With time and patience, each telegraphs its movements, helping you to gain a sense of mastery. However, I’m not a fan of the odd approach to tracking down a boss. In any given stage, you might need to track your targets to one of several possible locations on the map. If they aren’t there, you must run across the stage again to the next location. If they are there, they’re usually on a timer, and they flee to the next location before you can finish them off. It’s a frustrating mechanic that I could have done without, even though the game

provides a couple of ways to work around the issue.

One of the biggest features that sets “Mercenary Kings” apart is its rewarding customization. After acquiring money and materials on missions, you can upgrade your character’s armor for more hit points, install new bionic mods that offer effects like faster speed or higher damage, or change your outfit colors. However, the weapon system far outstrips everything else, offering around 300 distinct weapon pieces that can all be mixed and matched to create an arsenal for any occasion. By the end, you might have a handgun that shoots electric bullets, or a shotgun with a sniper-rifle scope that looks like a trombone.

As I explored Mandragora Island, my admiration for the gorgeous art, animation, and music grew. “Mercenary Kings” is a masterpiece of old school 2-D presentation, filled with clever nods to older games, but with a distinct style to the characters and backgrounds all its own.

“Mercenary Kings” is a testament to the idea that you can get too much of a good thing. The slick art, old-school shooting and deep customization options are immensely fun, as are the stages that you play through — the first few times. As it is, this style of shooting action feels like it’s stretched thin over such a lengthy campaign, and some of the missions might have been more fun if I hadn’t already explored the maps so thoroughly. The tedium certainly isn’t enough for me to warn people away from such a richly illustrated tribute to the roots of the shooter.

Platforms: PlayStation 4, PC
Online: mercenarykings.com

No joke: ‘Goat Simulator’ for real, more or less

By MICHAEL S. DARNELL

Stars and Stripes

Every so often, a game is released that reminds us all that gaming is ultimately not that serious of a hobby. “Goat Simulator,” from Coffee Stain Studios, is the gameifying that particular banner in 2014.

In “Goat Simulator,” players are given full control of an indestructible goat, armed with a full host of goat-related abilities and let loose upon a world in which physics are more of a suggestion than an immutable law of nature. In this world gone mad, players can head butt houses, jump over cars and backflip off trampolines — you know, basic goat stuff.

Points are accumulated by successfully completing stunts and finishing side missions that involve things like blowing up a gas station or fending off all challengers in goat fight club. The first rule of goat fight club

Overall grade: **C+**

is that we do not talk about what happens when you finish goat fight club, but it is sufficiently hilarious.

The game feels quite a bit like the free range modes in older skateboarding games. Much like those games, the entire point is to pull off crazy stunts, revel in silly humor and not worry about getting invested in a time sink.

The game is very simple and straightforward, which is to be expected as Coffee Stain created the simulator during a game jam — a rapid-fire game development challenge — and released it as somewhat of an April Fool’s joke.

Much of the enjoyment you’ll get from “Goat Simulator” is tied to how funny you find sending an indestructible mammal hurtling into the sky after trying to head butt a semi-truck. If that sounds



Coffee Stain Studios

“Goat Simulator” is for fans of PC games who would find it amusing to fling an indestructible goat around in various settings.

dumb (it’s sort of meant to), then this game is probably not for you.

Accumulating points don’t unlock anything for players, but

there are plenty of little secrets and Easter eggs to be found scattered around the world. Adventurous players can find a jet

pack, unlock an evil goat avatar and ride a hang glider.

I found “Goat Simulator” to be a fun little diversion, but ultimately it’s a joke, and like any joke, the more you hear it, the less entertaining it is. I had a blast sending my goat down a waterslide, bouncing it off a trampoline and sending it skateboarding into lower orbit, but that’s really all there is to the game.

It’s a bit pricey (\$10) for what it offers. It’s not an exorbitant price tag — more akin to a mobile phone game than a full-fledged release. This game with a lower price tag and on mobile platforms would have been perfect.

Bottom line: C+ If you’re a fan of silly humor and want a change of pace from the normal indie-platformer and early-access titles littering budget PC gaming, give “Goat Simulator” a shot. All others might want to avoid it.

Platforms: PC exclusive
Online: goat-simulator.com



Many more staff-written game reviews at stripes.com/military-life

WEEKEND: ENTERTAINMENT

NEW ON DVD

Black Nativity™: “Black Nativity” rises above the standard holiday film because of the strong writing, acting and music. There’s always going to be a certain amount of sentimentality that comes with such emotional redemption tales. That’s cushioned by the smart choices director Kasi Lemmons makes. The standard approach to this kind of story is to have the protagonist already well down the path of sin. Bringing someone back from such a long and winding road often feels manipulative or forced. Because Lemmons quickly shows that the film’s central figure has a good heart and is only facing bad decisions, the transformation that eventually comes feels real and grounded.



20TH CENTURY FOX/AP

Ben Stiller plays the title character in “The Secret Life of Walter Mitty.”

“The Secret Life of Walter Mitty.” A timid magazine worker goes on a true-life adventure. Ben Stiller stars as Mitty, a man who has lived most of his life dreaming of adventure. That’s the nature of Mitty. Despite the film’s endearing qualities, it loses its way when Mitty goes from dreamer to doer. It is a beautifully shot movie.

“Nut Job.” The film is strictly fun for kids. They will go nuts for the tale, but adults may just go nuts waiting for the rather redundant comic humor to end. “The Nut Job” is filled with colorfully wondrous creatures that inhabit an idyllic park. Winter’s coming and they are dangerously low on food. A new supply is needed, especially when squirrel lerner Surly (voiced by Will Arnett) puts an even bigger damper on the winter menus. There’s little to distinguish this film — from its video game looking landscapes to the characters.

“The Invisible Woman.” The film shows how Charles Dickens was living a life of great expectations as the perfect father who was also sharing his love with a mistress, Ellen Ternan, better known as Nelly. The film, directed by and starring Ralph Fiennes as the Victorian writer, lovingly turns back the pages on Dickens’ life to show the emotional turmoil that he faced. Fiennes crafts a film that is content to walk around the edges of events so that the focus is more cerebral and less sexual. It’s presented much the same way a novel during the Victorian Era would treat salacious elements, with more innuendo than direct examination. Also available on DVD.

“Philomena.” Judi Dench plays a woman searching for her son.

“Better Living Through Chemistry.” Pharmaciatist starts a drug-and-alcohol-fueled affair.

“Ride Along.” High school security guard (Kevin Hart) must prove his worth on patrol.

“Boys of Abu Ghraib.” American soldier forms bond with a prisoner he’s guarding.

“Camp Dread.” Director wants to resurrect summer camp horror genre.

“Making of a Lady.” Educated but penniless Emily Fox Seton (Lydia Wilson) struggles with love.

“Saint Seiya: Sanctuary.” Follows five mystical warriors called the “Saints.”

“Ripper Street: Season Two.” The job of protecting London’s Whitechapel district has never been harder for Detective Inspector Edmund Reid.

“Flowers In The Attic.” Mother hides four siblings in the attic.

— Rick Bentley/The Fresno Bee

Young ‘Mad Men’ star has her act together

By NINA METZ/Chicago Tribune

Can we agree that Don Draper sunk to a new low of lousy parenting last season on “Mad Men” when he barely took pains to hide his infidelity with the neighbor lady? That recklessness pretty much ensured that someone would walk in on one of his assignations. That someone turned out to be his preteen daughter, Sally.

“Sorry about that!” Jon Hamm joked to 14-year-old co-star Kiernan Shipka at a recent PaleyFest event in Los Angeles. The funny thing is, it wouldn’t take much effort to make a supercut called “Sorry about that!” featuring scene after scene after scene of adults going rogue in Sally Draper’s presence.

As former Chicago Tribune critic Maureen Ryan once put it: “You could almost sum up the AMC drama by calling it a prelude to Sally Draper’s inevitable years of therapy.”

That, or a full-blown counterculture-fueled rebellion. Let the sunshine in, Sally.

Originally from Chicago, Shipka moved to Los Angeles when she landed the role on “Mad Men.” She was 6.

Fame at a young age can warp reality, but you don’t sense that with Shipka, even as she’s become increasingly interested in fashion. Serious designers provide her red carpet looks, and she wears their clothes with considerable more style and self-assurance than most seasoned actresses.

The seventh and final season of “Mad Men” started in the U.S. on April 13.

Where are you in terms of wrapping things up on “Mad Men”?

We’ve done the first seven episodes, and we’re in sort of a little bit of a hiatus right now, and then we go back in a couple of weeks to finish up the rest (which will air next year). I think we’ll be done by June. It definitely feels like it’s ending. I think I’ll feel that way more once we get back, because it’ll truly be the last of everything, and it’s sad!

What year are you in school?

I’m just finishing up my senior year.

Wait, you’re 14!

I do an independent study program, so it’s a little more concentrated. It’s just a different work schedule, so I can get done with it faster. It’s called Laurel Springs, and it’s a full online curriculum that’s K-12. It definitely caters to young actors.

When I watch “Mad Men,”

I’m always reminded that girls dressed younger for longer in the 1960s compared with today’s fashion. What goes through your mind when you put on the costumes for Sally?

It’s fun because a lot of those clothes I wouldn’t wear in real life — they’re not my style — so I think it’s cool that I get to

go that route and dress up as this different person. And really, unless (costume designer) Janie (Bryant) and her team make a piece, it’s all vintage. It’s all from that time period. So it’s one more step into that world.

Is there one fashion trait from the ‘60s that you hate? That’s so easy. It’s the pants. The pants — ugh! They’re so stiff, and they’re high-waisted. If I had to choose one thing (to ditch) that would probably be it. I like the style of the pants; it’s just comfort-wise, no.

In the past, you’ve said you haven’t watched “Mad Men” because you were too young. Is that still true?

Now I’ve seen the show. I was sick in bed with a cold, so I just decided to start. You know, that typical Netflix binge-watching. So far I’ve seen all of Season 1 and tidbits of everything else.

What’s it like watching yourself as a 6- or 7-year-old kid, all these years later?

I was so tiny. It’s like all this home video footage of me running around and saying things with a lisp. I think

I’m going to have to watch it again because the first time, all these memories were coming back.

When I was little, I was just doing my scenes.

And that was pretty much all I knew. I

knew that there was a whole show beyond what I was doing, but I was more focused on the Sally parts.

So going back and seeing why my character was saying certain things and how it all played out, it was cool to look back and get the full picture.

Kiernan Shipka plays Sally Draper on “Mad Men.”

AMC/MCT



WEEKEND: HEALTH & FITNESS

No sugarcoating

More experts warn of dangers of consuming sugar

By DAVID TEMPLETON
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Dr. Robert Lustig's YouTube lectures about the dangers of sugar have raised a few eyebrows in recent years and even drawn some criticism.

But the pediatric endocrinologist's proclamations are supported by research his team has done at the University of California, San Francisco, with steady confirmation from other scientific studies linking sugar with chronic disease and early death. Among his points are:

- **Sugar is poison.**
- **Sugar is unhealthy in any form.**
- **There are good calories and bad calories,** the latter including those from sugar.
- **Obesity is not a prerequisite for metabolic illness.** Eighty percent of those with obesity do have metabolic disease or resulting chronic illness. But 40 percent of people of normal weight also have such diseases.

- **Don't blame those who are obese or chronically ill for their conditions.** It's not so much poor lifestyle that creates obesity and illness as it is biochemical exposures to sugar and other unhealthy ingredients that manufacturers routinely put into food products, with consumers often being unaware.

Lustig's latest YouTube video, "Fat Chance: Fructose 2.0," has received 155,000 views and climbing. But his 2009 YouTube lecture, "Sugar: The Bitter Truth," which details the biological consequences of high fructose corn syrup, is approaching 4.5 million views. He also has two books on the topic.

But he defers to Will Smith — as Agent J in "Men in Black 3" — to answer the question Agent K (Tommy Lee Jones) asks: "What's the most destructive force in the universe?"

"Sugar?" Agent J says, with an inquisitive lilt.

"He got it right," Lustig said. "We know these substances are addictive and hazardous to health. Hollywood knows this. Why don't you?"

Sugar is listed in Nutrition Facts food labels by 56 names, including various malts and syrups. Most people might be unaware that dextran, athyl maltol, treacle, panocha, lactose and sorbitol are names for sugar.

Fructose has drawn attention with the increased use of high fructose corn syrup in foods and soft drinks. The sweetener produced chemically from corn starch provides better texture and improves shelf life.

Sucrose, or table sugar, is half fructose, which is metabolized in the liver, and glucose, which is blood sugar that produces cellular energy to muscles and organs.

In the liver, excess fructose is transformed into fat, which can be a factor in elevated cholesterol and arterial plaque. High fructose corn syrup used in soft drinks has a 55-45 ratio of fructose to glucose.

Lustig says sugar is addictive, although not everyone agrees. Some researchers say people eat too much sugar routinely because of its overabundance in the American culture and diet.

A recent study by Lustig's team concludes that 25 percent of type 2 diabetes is caused by sugar consumption.



THE SEATTLE TIMES/MCT

Studies also conclude that sugar consumption leads to fatty liver, high triglyceride and bad LDL cholesterol levels, plaque in blood vessels and insulin resistance leading to metabolic syndrome and diabetes.

"There definitely are a number of studies that show within big populations a big relationship between sugar consumption and every metabolic disease we have," said Kimber Stanhope, a University of California, Davis, nutritional biologist.

In February, a study published in the journal JAMA Internal Medicine found that "most United States adults consume more added sugar than is recommended for a healthy diet," with findings of "a significant relationship between added sugar consumption and increased risk for cardiovascular disease mortality."

Those whose added sugar consumption was more than 10 percent but below 25 percent of daily calories face a 30 percent higher risk of cardiovascular disease than those whose sugar consumption was less than 10 percent. The risk of cardiovascular disease nearly tripled for those whose diet consisted of 25 percent or more of added sugar, according to the study.

The study also said that findings were largely consistent across age groups, gender, race or ethnicity (except for non-Hispanic African-Americans), education, physical activity and body mass index.

"A higher percentage of calories from added sugar is associated with significantly increased risk of cardiovascular disease mortality," the study concludes. "In addition, regular consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages is associated with elevated cardiovascular mortality."

"Our results support current recommendations to limit the intake of calories from added sugars in U.S. diets," it concludes.

The American Heart Association recommends fewer than 100 calories of sugar daily for women and 150 calories a day for men — about 5 percent or less of total daily calories.

New Nutrition Facts labels proposed by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, expected to be in place in two years, would require companies to list not only total sugar but also "added sugar" to help people differentiate between naturally occurring sugar in grains, nuts, fruits and vegetables from those added by the manu-

'There definitely are a number of studies that show within big populations a big relationship between sugar consumption and every metabolic disease we have.'

Kimber Stanhope
nutritional biologist

facturer for taste, texture or shelf life.

High fructose corn syrup is used in numerous processed foods, including many soft drinks, such as Coca-Cola and Pepsi.

Fructose in fruit isn't considered a health risk because levels are so low and because the fruit fiber slows the rate of metabolism. Sucrose is made up of equal amounts of glucose and fructose. Too much overwhelms the liver, which causes it to turn some of the fructose into fat.

"Fat can stay in the liver, which may interfere with the liver's ability to use insulin properly," Stanhope said. "This is called insulin resistance, and it increases risk for diabetes and cardiovascular disease. Or the liver can send the fat made from fructose into the blood stream where it can increase risk of cardiovascular disease."

While research likely will never provide absolute proof of sugar's impact on human health, studies reveal a close association between sugar consumption and metabolic disease. That among growing evidence from diet intervention studies raise red flags about its harm, Stanhope added.

In his latest video, Lustig noted that "old medicine" recognized infection as the main cause of disease with the vector being the various microbes — viruses, bacteria and fungi. Nowadays, he says, medicine must focus on chronic disease with the vector being "multinational corporations," if we place the blame on food manufacturing and marketing.

Food and beverage companies, meanwhile, maintain that there is no proof that consuming sugar makes a person more likely to get sick.

A Q&A on the PepsiCo website quotes a person asking about the reported health risks of diets high in fructose.

"Some studies have found that consumption of unusually high amounts of pure fructose may trigger health concerns," PepsiCo replies. "However, these concerns do not apply to HFCS (high fructose corn syrup). Despite its name, HFCS is not high in fructose. HFCS and table sugar contain about the same amount of fructose, and neither has been shown to be harmful."

But Stanhope, who consumes sugar only on special occasions (about once a month), said evidence is more than sufficient to advise people against its consumption.

"I think the data we have are strong but not definitive," she said. "People should be looking and listening and realizing that there are no risks associated with reducing sugar intake, but there may be risk in continuing to eat high amounts of sugar while waiting for more definitive scientific evidence. Parents should get their kids off sugar and they should get off sugar themselves."

WEEKEND: FAMILY



COURTESY OF RICK WILLIAMSON/ABC

Tricia and Mike Williamson pose with their 1-year-old son, Adam, at their home in Liberty, N.C. Tricia quit her job as an editor and producer at a television station after crunching the numbers and realizing that her salary after the birth of her son would go primarily to her commuting and child care expenses.

More moms stay home

Census names child care cost as a factor

By LEANNE ITALIE
The Associated Press

The rising cost of child care is among likely reasons for a rise in the number of women staying home full-time with their children, according to a Pew Research Center report released early this month.

Other factors cited by Pew to explain the increase include more immigrant mothers, who tend to stay home with children in greater numbers than U.S.-born moms; more women unable to find work; and ambivalence about the impact of working mothers on young children.

The share of mothers who do not work outside the home rose to 29 percent in 2012, the study found. That's up from 23 percent in 2000, according to the report.

The at-home moms include women who are married, single, disabled, enrolled in school or unable to find work.

Pew cited a 2010 U.S. census report that singled out the expense of child care as a factor. In inflation-adjusted dollars, the average weekly child care expense for families with working mothers rose more than 70 percent, from \$87 in 1985 to \$148 in 2011.

Tricia Williamson, 30, of Liberty, N.C., quit her job as an editor and producer at a TV station after crunching the numbers and realizing her salary after the birth of her

son a year ago would go primarily to commuting and child care. Her husband earns about \$44,000 a year as an electronics technician.

"We're not rich by any means. We live paycheck to paycheck, but it's completely worth it," she said. "My son wouldn't be getting the attention he needs one-on-one. He's got Mom 24/7."

The largest share of at-home mothers — roughly two-thirds of 10.4 million — had working husbands. A growing share — 6 percent in 2012, up from 1 percent in 2000 — said they could not find a job, according to Pew, which relied on U.S. Census and other government data.

No matter what their marital status, mothers at home are younger and less educated than working counterparts, the report said. Most married moms said they were home specifically to take care of the kids, while single mothers were more likely to say they couldn't find a job, were ill, disabled or in school.

Among all at-home mothers in 2012, 51 percent had at least one child age 5 or younger, compared with 41 percent of working mothers. The researchers said one of the most striking demographic differences between at-home mothers and working mothers is their economic well-being, with about 34 percent of at-home mothers living in poverty, compared with 12 percent of working mothers.

Relatively few married at-home mothers with working husbands qualify as "affluent," at nearly 370,000 with at least a master's

degree and a median family income of over \$75,000 a year in 2012.

That number amounted to 5 percent of married at-home mothers with working husbands.

The "elite" marrieds stand out from other at-home mothers as disproportionately white or Asian. About 69 percent are white and 19 percent are Asian. Only 7 percent are Hispanic and 3 percent are black.

Mothers more likely to stay home are among demographic groups on the rise in the U.S. For example, 40 percent of immigrant mothers were at home with their children, compared with about a quarter of U.S.-born mothers.

Among at-home mothers living in poverty in 2012, 36 percent were immigrants, the report said.

The report points to stagnant incomes for all but the college-educated as a possible factor for less-educated workers in particular who might be weighing the cost of child care against wages and deciding it makes more economic sense to stay home.

While attitudes over the decades toward working mothers have improved, "most Americans continue to believe that it's best for children to have a parent at home," said D'Vera Cohn, a senior writer at Pew who worked on the report.

Since 2008, about 70 percent said when questioned in an ongoing social survey that a working mother is just as capable as an at-home mother of establishing the same "warm and secure" relationship with her children. But 60 percent of Americans in a recent Pew survey said children are better off when a parent stays home to "focus on the family," compared with 35 percent who said children are "just as well off with working parents."

SPOUSE CALLS

Silver goblets honor sacrifice

My husband and I traveled to Ohio this month for a friend's retirement ceremony at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. It was a journey through military family history, both individual and collective.

The retirement celebration was a toast to our friend's history and his future. Funny stories were told. Colleagues spoke of his leadership and kindness. His family's military life flashed before our eyes in a slide show of memories.

Afterward, we visited the National Museum of the Air Force, also at Wright-Pat, for another trip through history. The hanger-sized exhibit halls contain the saga of flight, from the Wright brothers to space travel.

The museum is packed with planes, but the vessels I most wanted to see were not for flying. In a glass case beside a B25 is a collection of 80 silver goblets, each engraved with the name of one who offered his life for his country.

Eighty goblets, 80 names. Sixteen crews of five men each, who took off on a risky flight 72 years ago today: The first bombing of mainland Japan on April 18, 1942, an all but impossible mission led by then Lt. Col. Jimmy Doolittle.

Four months after the attack on Pearl Harbor, the raid was a boost to American morale and a warning to Japan that the sleeping giant was indeed awake. "Doolittle's Tokyo Raiders" became decorated national heroes.

Sixteen B25 bombers launched from an aircraft carrier — something never before attempted — in the Pacific Ocean. They were to bomb key targets in and around Tokyo and fly toward China while their fuel lasted. The crewmen, all volunteers, knew it was likely a one-way mission. They went anyway, and Doolittle promised the men a party when it was over.

Three were killed on the mission. Eight were captured by the Japanese. Three of those were executed, the rest were held throughout the war. One died in captivity. Many of the surviving raiders went on to serve on other battlefronts, and 11 more gave their lives. Sixty-two survived the war.

In 1945, Doolittle was finally able to fulfill his promise. He gave a party in December, where the returning Raiders raised a toast to those who didn't return. The gathering and the toast became a yearly tradition on the anniversary of the raid. Each Raider Reunion took place in a different city, and included a local charity benefit.

The silver goblets were presented to the Raiders in 1959 by the city of Tucson, Ariz., that year's location. At following reunions, the goblets of those who had died since the previous reunion were turned upside down. Each cup is engraved twice with the name of a Raider, right side up and upside down, so that when the cup is upended, the name can still be read.

Four cups remain at Wright, but today there is no reunion. With few exceptions, the Raiders have gathered every year since 1945, but in 2013, the remaining Raiders, all in their nineties, decided that reunion would be their last and planned a final toast for Veterans Day at the National Museum of the Air Force.

In November, joined by dignitaries, families and friends, three of the four living Raiders, Richard Cole, David Thatcher and Edward Saylor, gathered. Robert Hite was too ill to attend.

Cole opened a long-reserved bottle of cognac and the trio lifted their silver cups one last time.

"To those we lost on the mission and those who have passed away since: Thank you, and may they rest in peace," said Cole, offering the toast.

The planes in the museum carried many heroes on many missions. The silver goblets carry memories of smiling faces, acts of leadership and sacrifice. They represent friendship and a bond that outlasted war, hardship and loss.

Whatever cup you lift today, remember the Raiders, and raise it high for all who gave a life or a lifetime in military service.

Terri Barnes is the author of "Spouse Calls: Messages From a Military Life." Contact her at spousecalls@stripes.com or at stripes.com/go/spousecalls.



Terri Barnes

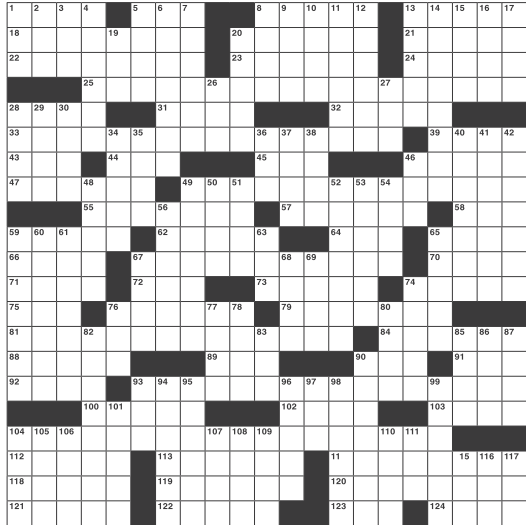
WEEKEND: CROSSWORD AND COMICS

NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

IT'S TAXING

BY DAN SCHOENHOLZ / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

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| | 102 "Sad to say ..." | 16 "____ brother!" | 76 S.A.S.E. recipients |
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| | 104 C.P.A.'s masterstroke? | 19 "Aladdin" prince | |
| | | 20 Like some opposites | |
| | | 25 Suffix with deposit | |
| | | 27 Choice words | |
| | | 28 Hypes (up) | |
| | | 29 Chute opener? | |
| | | 30 Hip to | |
| | | 34 Judean ruler | |



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| 80 Syndicated radio host John | 87 ____ a one | 98 Settings for "Skyfall" and "Casino Royale" | 108 Last little bit |
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| | 94 Alternatives to Mustangs | 106 Wood alternative | 116 Partner of again |
| | 95 Pacific current event? | | 117 ____ Digital Short |
| | 96 2008 Olympic tennis gold medalist | | |

GUNSTON STREET



"Gunston Street" is drawn by Basil Zaviski. E-mail him at gunstonstreet@yahoo.com, and visit gunstonstreet.com.

RESULTS FOR ABOVE PUZZLE

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Here is the definitive book on the Boston Marathon bombing and subsequent manhunt for the Tsarnaevs. Read the gripping story of the tragic, surreal, and ultimately inspiring week of April 15, 2013 as it highlights the bravery, resourcefulness, and resiliency of the Boston community.

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— est. 1852 —

FACES

Actor sinks teeth into directing

BY ALICIA RANCILIO
The Associated Press

Paul Wesley admits to experiencing jitters on his first day of directing the episode airing April 17 in the U.S. of the CW's "The Vampire Diaries," particularly, when it came to saying the word "action."

"I had been hearing the word 'action' for 15 years, but it was always from behind the camera," explained the 31-year-old actor in a recent interview. "To say it was really a weird feeling."

On "The Vampire Diaries," Wesley plays Stefan Salvatore, a 165-year-old vampire with a conscience, who happens to look eternally youthful because he was "turned" at a young age.

Wesley has long been fascinated by directing, admiring the likes of Stanley Kubrick and Ingmar Bergman, and says that developing a good relationship with the brass at the network and on the show, he got the OK to get behind the camera this fifth season. He was convinced they'd give him a lighter episode to start with, but instead was thrown a "cool" challenge.

"I did blue screens, I had stunts, I had all sorts of visual effects, I had flashbacks," he said. "I mean, it was really an action-packed episode. I was surprised at how

much they gave me. I thought they were really gonna go easy on me. It was gonna be incredibly generic, but it wasn't."

Now that he's experienced it once, Wesley is itching to direct more. "This is not something that is sort of a one-time thing for me... I'm gonna do more episodes next year, but I think it's about doing other things that aren't 'Vampire Diaries.' There's some cable shows that film during my hiatus which I'd love to direct, so I'd love to take a swing at that."

He said it's just a matter of time before he directs a feature film.

Wesley is also interested in other aspects of filmmaking. He produced and co-starred in "Before I Disappear" with Emmy Rossum and Richard Schiff, where he helped make creative decisions.

"I loved it. For me, it was an incredibly gratifying experience."

The movie won the Audience Award at this year's South by Southwest Film Festival.

Paul Wesley stars on the TV show "The Vampire Diaries." He directed an episode that aired Thursday in the U.S. The show airs on AFN-Family.

RICHARD SHOTWELL,
INVISION/AP

Director Bryan Singer accused of sex abuse in lawsuit

The Associated Press

A former child model and aspiring actor is accusing "X-Men" franchise director Bryan Singer of sexually abusing him as a teenager in a federal lawsuit filed in Hawaii.

The lawsuit filed Wednesday says the prominent director of the forthcoming "X-Men: Days of Future Past" forced Michael Egan III into sex during parties in California and Hawaii when he was 17 in the late 1990s.

Singer's attorney, Marty Singer, said in a statement that the claims are absurd and defamatory.

"It is obvious that this case was filed in an attempt to get publicity at the time when Bryan's new movie is about to open in a few weeks," said Marty Singer, who said he is not related to the director.

"X-Men: Days of Future Past" is set for release May 23. It's the fifth film in the blockbuster franchise.

Egan and his attorney, Jeff Herman, planned a news conference Thursday in Los Angeles. The lawsuit claims Egan was lured into a sex ring with promises of auditions for acting, modeling and commercial jobs. He was paid as an actor for a digital entertainment company, but forced to have sex with adult performers at parties notorious within Hollywood's entertainment industry, the lawsuit said.

The lawsuit says that Bryan Singer attended several of the parties and forced Egan into sex, giving him drugs and threatening Egan when he resisted advances. It does not accuse the director of forcing Egan into sex.

The lawsuit does not specify a total

dollar amount, but says Egan is seeking more than \$75,000 on each of four accusations: intentional infliction of emotional distress, battery, assault and invasion of privacy.

Young takes break from band

Malcolm Young is taking a break from AC/DC to focus on his health, the band said.

The announcement saying the 61-year-old guitarist is in "ill health" was posted on the band's Facebook page. No details were provided.

AC/DC includes vocalist Brian Johnson, drummer Phil Rudd, bassist Cliff Williams and guitarist Angus Young, Malcolm Young's brother. The Rock and Roll Hall of Famers said in the statement they "will continue to make music."

Young co-founded the Australian classic rock band. He has performed with AC/DC for 40 years.

WWE performs in Middle East

Pro wrestlers with the WWE, including John Cena and champion Randy Orton, are in Saudi Arabia for three days of matches in the capital, Riyadh.

World Wrestling Entertainment Inc. says it is the first time its franchise has held matches in the ultraconservative Muslim kingdom, home to Islam's holiest sites.

WWE is widely popular across the Middle East. WWE has an Arabic website and debuted live in the region in Egypt in 2012. Matches also have been held in Qatar and the United Arab Emirates since.

Ticketmaster says on its website the matches in Saudi Arabia are for males only.

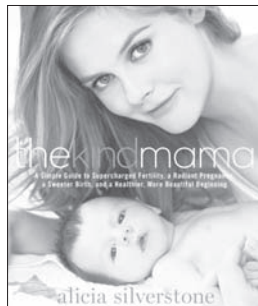
Other news

■ Court records show Will Arnett has filed for divorce from Amy Poehler more than 18 months after the comedians announced their separation. Arnett filed a divorce petition in Los Angeles Superior Court on April 8 citing irreconcilable differences. His filing seeks joint custody of the pair's sons, ages 3 and 5.

■ Jenny McCarthy had big news to share Wednesday on "The View": She's engaged to Donnie Wahlberg, star of CBS' "Blue Bloods" and a member of New Kids on the Block. He proposed last weekend.

■ ABC's "The View" will gather all 11 past and present co-hosts to salute Barbara Walters as she retires from daily television. The network said Wednesday the first-ever reunion will air live on the May 15 episode of "The View," the day before Walters says goodbye as series co-host.

■ The Budweiser Made in America music festival is coming to Los Angeles, but who is performing and how the city will manage the two-day concert are still mysteries. Jay Z and L.A. mayor Eric Garcetti held a news conference Wednesday to announce the festival, planned for Labor Day weekend and held simultaneously with one in Philadelphia.



RODALE BOOKS/AP

"The Kind Mama: A Simple Guide to Supercharged Fertility, a Radiant Pregnancy, a Sweeter Birth, and a Healthier, More Beautiful Beginning," is a new book by actress Alicia Silverstone. "I knew there was another way and it would be a more enjoyable, lovely way," she says. "So I started talking to doctors and medical experts, doing tons of research and found that there was so much support for this way. I wanted to make a guide for women so they could have that experience that they deserved to have."

Silverstone out with book 'Kind Mama'

BY ALICIA RANCILIO
The Associated Press

She's famous as an actress for "Clueless." But Alicia Silverstone is also famous for her sometimes controversial ideas about mothering, and now she's put those philosophies down in writing in a just-published book, "The Kind Mama" (Rodalet).

Silverstone, 37, whose son Bear Blu is almost 3, says she had a wonderful pregnancy and wants other women to feel as good as she did.

"I knew there was another way and it would be a more enjoyable, lovely way," said Silverstone in a recent interview. "So I started talking to doctors and medical experts, doing tons of research and found that there was so much support for this way. I wanted to make a guide for women so they could have that experience that they deserved to have."

As a vegan, Silverstone advocates a plant-based diet over meat and dairy.

"When you take plants as your medicine and you use these nourishing miracles to truly get well, everything's easier," she said, adding, "You get to have happy, healthy mommas and babies and when mommy feels good, everybody feels good. And when babies feel good they act really well. They're not uncomfortable and just struggling to process everything that's being done to them. They feel amazing and they thrive."

She also recommends a lying-in period after birth, where a mother can bond with her baby. Silverstone says she took 10 days after birth to stay in bed with her son.

Silverstone has made a few headlines in the past for advocating practices that are out of the mainstream: After giving birth, she ate pills made from the placenta, and in 2012, she aired a video of herself practicing pre-mastication — pre-chewing food for her baby and spitting it in his mouth.



Poehler and Arnett

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Transfer surplus warships to allies

BY MICHAEL MORAN

A bitter debate has raged in the Pentagon for several months about the wisdom of taking the nuclear aircraft carrier George Washington out of service to save money. The Washington, at 24 years old a relatively young vessel, is due for a costly refit, a routine procedure that all of the 11 large carriers in service undergo regularly.

The Navy fought hard against mothballing the giant ship. But Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel has warned that when the two-year reprieve Congress granted from sequester cuts expires in 2016, the George Washington will be back on the chopping block. Moreover, the chief of naval operations said last month that the Navy plans to remove 11 of its 22 Ticonderoga-class cruisers from active duty to save on operating costs, as well as removing from service early the last frigates in the fleet.

But the critics are right. This hardly seems the moment to be scrapping them, with China expanding its fleet and acting aggressively in the South and East China seas and the ongoing need to keep a significant carrier force near to Persia.

Instead, what about taking a page from history and transferring surplus warships to allied navies?

Imagine Australia, India, Brazil and Britain — the latter struggling along with no active carrier at the moment — operating the five oldest active-duty U.S. carriers. The offer of such superpower bling might prove irresistible, even with the high maintenance costs that come with them.

There is ample precedent. When World War II ended, the U.S. Navy had a fleet that included 28 large aircraft carriers and 71 smaller escort carriers. The U.S. sold them to any other nation, and far more than the peacetime world seemed to demand.

Hundreds of other warships, overnight, went from vital weapons systems to costly maintenance inventory. Many of them found their way to scrap yards, others to



Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

The Navy's oldest aircraft carrier, USS Enterprise, left, passes the USS George H.W. Bush during a transit of the Bab-el-Mandeb strait.

the reserve fleet, where they sat rusting for a few decades before their own date at the breaking yard came due.

A select few, mixed and mingled with captured German battleships, Japanese subs and some Allied hulks, were moored off Bikini Atoll and vaporized in an atomic test.

But not all of America's wartime inventory in its huge fleet met such ends. Aware that the cost of keeping a ship at sea would be prohibitive, the Navy hit on a perfect way to balance its desire to downsize and its need to fill the gap in maritime security that Britain's shrinking Royal Navy was creating across the globe. Rather than mothballing every ship or selling them for scrap, the U.S. transferred entire fleets of destroyers, cruisers and other vessels to allied navies.

For much of the Cold War, in fact, the navies of some of America's closest allies were led by ships that once fought the Japanese off Okinawa or hunted German submarines in the Atlantic. Greece, Turkey, Spain — as well as Peru, Colombia, Argentina and even former enemies like Japan, Italy and West Germany — all took

delivery of warships they could never have afforded to build or purchase.

During the 1940s and '50s, dozens of smaller warships were sent to navies around the world, a stopgap measure to check the sudden rise of Soviet naval power. Greece and Turkey operated so many Fletcher-class destroyers that they occasionally fired warning shots at their own ships, mistaking them for the enemy. The General Belgrano, the Argentine cruiser sunk by a British submarine during the Falklands War at a loss of 323 people, began its life in the 1930s as the Phoenix, a Brooklyn-class light cruiser that survived the attack on Pearl Harbor.

How might such transfers play out today? For one thing, transferring a handful of the 11 big nuclear carriers in the U.S. fleet to our allies would eliminate the need to mothball many other ships. It would also open up money to develop the next generation of platforms, including the pilotless drone carriers.

Michael Moran is the New York-based managing director of a global political, integrity and security risk consultancy.

Local goods: Good for you and your community

BY MEGAN KIMBLE

The chickens are all of feed. Before they can make a dash through the coop's open door, I hoist the round metal feeder from his hook and squat-walk backward until I can stand straight again. I turn my back on the flock, lift the feeder and crouch back into the coop.

I am one-twelfth of the Chicken Tenders, a Tucson chicken-tending attempt at collective urban homesteading. Months before, we'd each contributed \$90 to cover the costs of building three backyard coops at three host homes, bought chicks from a local farmer, weeded out the males as their maleness became apparent and set a rotating tending schedule. Once a week, each of us would visit one of the houses, refill feed and water, tidy the coop and go home with a carton of fresh eggs.

I joined the Chicken Tenders because I like eggs and knowing where they come from. I'd failed to consider the possibility that I might not like chickens. That, in fact, chickens kind of freak me out, with their feathers fluffing and souls a-strut. When I reveal this to my sister, she asks, "Then why did you join a chicken cooperative?"

I work as the managing editor of a local food magazine. I'm a longtime member of a community-supported agriculture program. Two years ago, I stopped buying processed food and started doing it myself. So when the invitation arrived, I thought: Yes! I should definitely join a chicken cooperative.

As we divorce ourselves from producing food, we become helpless, dependent and ignorant about its origins. We subsidize factory farms, waste energy and imbibe chemical additives. So, the logic goes, we should bake bread, make cheese, butcher a pork shoulder. We should raise chickens.

But there is a limit to this way of thinking. My do-it-yourself devotion taught me this: We cannot play a role in determining where all of our food comes from, not if we want to edit magazines, order tacos from carols or travel to Mexico.

I was mostly a vegetarian until, paradoxically, I spent two harrowing days helping to butcher a sheep. Instead of turning me off meat completely, the experience elicited a surge of respect and gratitude for the ranchers at the farmers market who, week after week, muster the necessary reverence to deliver the animals they so carefully raise to local slaughterhouses and follow them through the butchering process. I didn't want to process a sheep again, but I decided I could eat meat, as I realized, viscerally, one reason we humans clustered into communities was to specialize, to choose different paths and perfect our endeavors.

There is, in short, a legitimate space between DIY and outsourced food production. Money spent on sustainably, mindfully produced local goods has a power that multiplies and ripples through communities. According to a study by Local First Arizona, if a community the size of Tucson shifted 10 percent of its spending to local businesses — a 10 percent shift, not an increase — within

one year, it would create nearly \$140 million in new revenue for the city. Spend \$100 at a local business and \$73 of it will stay in your community, meeting payroll, covering rent, creating accountability; spend that same \$100 at a national corporation and only \$43 sticks around.

At the Tucson Food Conspiracy Co-op, \$5 buys me a dozen eggs produced at ReZoNana Farm, where Jaime deZubeldia and his wife, Kara, struggle to turn a profit on their 300 foraging heritage chickens and 100 beehives. My \$5, week after week — along with other people's \$5 — helps to keep these small farmers in business and ensures that their land, about 25 miles from Tucson, will remain farmland.

There are many examples of successful chicken cooperative programs across the country. It is not a bad idea. We should all join more cooperatives, should all be linked to one another in more enduring and accountable ways, and connected to our food.

That said, investing in small-scale professional producers through the everyday dollars we spend is as important a step to building strong local food systems as is producing food ourselves. Money spent on eggs, vegetables, meat and cheese made well and made in our communities will support and empower the farms and businesses that are integral to building sustainable, secure local food economies.

After all, we don't all have to like chickens.

Megan Kimble is the managing editor of *Edible Baja Arizona* and blogs at megankimble.com. She wrote this article for the Los Angeles Times.

OPINION

What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other statewide syndicates.

Rwanda offers a lesson The Tampa (Fla.) Tribune

It has been 20 years since the genocide that took as many as a million lives and left Rwanda in ruins. So it is illuminating that a new report shows that life expectancy in the formerly splintered African nation has doubled in that time.

The development reveals what can happen when murderous, corrupt regimes are replaced with leadership focused on maintaining peace and improving living conditions.

Harvard professor Paul Farmer, along with Rwandan health experts, just published a study of the life expectancy data in *The Lancet*, the world's most prestigious medical journal.

"In the aftermath of one of the worst spasms of mass violence in recorded history, few imagined that Rwanda might one day stand as a model of a nation committed to health equity," their report notes.

The 1994 genocide, carried out chiefly by the country's Hutus against their rival Tutsis, killed nearly 20 percent of the nation's population and displaced millions more.

... The story now goes far beyond the life expectancy data, which obviously were going to improve somewhat once the mass killings ended.

In Rwanda today, the genocide — while it will never be forgotten — has been put aside as the victims and the perpetrators join hands in a remarkable effort to build a better nation. Investment in Rwanda has nearly tripled since 2005, and although it lacks many natural resources, the country has become economically vibrant.

Moreover, most of the population is covered by health insurance, and malaria deaths have fallen more than 85 percent since 2005. The crime rate is low, and Rwandan women can now safely walk the streets at night.

If this kind of reconciliation and revival can happen in a forlorn corner of the world like Rwanda, couldn't it also happen in other places?

In fact, it has happened elsewhere: Just last week, Michael D. Higgins became the first president of Ireland to ever visit Britain's Parliament and be received by Queen Elizabeth at Windsor Castle.

Given the bloody history of Ireland's conflicts with the United Kingdom, it is encouraging the two sides are on friendly terms.

And although it took 20 years to overcome the horrors of Rwanda's genocide, we can only hope that the reconciliation, like that between Ireland and Great Britain, offers similar hope to other troubled parts of the world.

Africa expansion unwarranted Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

The Defense Department's Africa Command, created in 2008, continues to expand U.S. military activities in Africa, now in at least 18 countries.

The operations are taking place in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, Djibouti (which hosts a major U.S. base), Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Libya, Mali, Niger, Senegal, the Seychelles, Somalia, South Sudan, Togo, Tunisia and Uganda. The United States has operated drones out of Djibouti, Ethiopia, Niger and the Seychelles. A U.S.-trained officer led a coup d'état in Mali in 2012.

Last month, a U.S. Special Operations force commandeered a tanker in international waters that Libyan rebels were attempting to use to export Libyan oil for their own profit. The armed intervention



CHARLES DUNARAP/AP

President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden stand with outgoing Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, second from left, and his nominee to be her replacement, Budget Director Sylvia Mathews Burwell, on April 11 at the White House.

was carried out at the request of the Libyan government and responded to the desires of American oil companies operating in Libya. A parallel use of U.S. military forces to protect the assets of American oil companies is the guard function they carry out on a pipeline in Colombia, South America.

In March, President Barack Obama authorized the insertion of U.S. forces into Central Africa to aid the Ugandan military in what have been unsuccessful efforts to track down the Lord's Resistance Army of Joseph Kony. This action was taken in spite of previous failures to trap the LRA and public criticism of the Ugandan government of President Yoweri Museveni for a law that its legislature has passed and he has signed that is sharply discriminatory against homosexuals.

It is difficult to argue that America has important strategic interests in any of these countries. Absent the agreement of any African nation to the establishment of a U.S. Africa Command headquarters on its soil, it remains based in Stuttgart, Germany.

It is hard to fathom why U.S. military activity is on the rise in Africa, but it may be driven to a degree by Pentagon fears that its budget will be cut in the post-Iraq and post-Afghanistan era, now that Americans are tired of endless wars. The problem is the activity is expensive — planned expansion of the Djibouti base alone is estimated to cost \$750 million — and it risks involving the United States in unnecessary military adventures. Someone needs to "red pencil" the expansion before it proceeds further.

Sad truth on Obamacare Las Vegas Review-Journal

On the afternoon of April 1, President Barack Obama pulled out the pom-poms and assumed the role of cheer captain at the White House Rose Garden to celebrate the great Obamacare victory. The Affordable Care Act had reached its purported goal of 7 million sign-ups, and by the March 31 deadline, no less.

Not 7 million paid consumers. Not 7 million who were previously uninsured, which we were told was the primary objective of the law. Just 7 million people who at least chose a plan via healthcare.gov or the state exchanges....

The Obama administration continues to demonstrate an extreme lack of transparency on the president's signature legislation, particularly with regard to paid enrollment and the number of sign-ups who were previously uninsured.

The sad truth about Obamacare: It largely has resulted in a churning of the insured. An extensive study released Tuesday by Rand Corp. ... estimates that, through March 28, 3.9 million people were covered through the federal and state Obamacare exchanges. That's not exactly 71 million. Granted, the study doesn't include a deadline surge of new enrollees.

As for paid enrollees, Forbes.com's Avik

Roy used the Rand study and a report last month from management consulting firm McKinsey to determine that 76 percent of those who have paid their first month's premium were previously insured, while just 24 percent were previously uninsured. A separate Forbes report estimates that 15 to 20 percent of enrollees haven't paid....

This was not what was promised. As Roy rightly notes, the Congressional Budget Office, in its original estimates, predicted that the vast majority of those eligible for subsidies on the exchanges would be previously uninsured individuals. Instead, the vast majority are previously insured people. The only notable achievement of Obamacare thus far is the expansion of Medicaid (5.9 million added, per Rand), which could have been accomplished without the law.

For Americans who had become uninsurable because of disease or a debilitating condition, Obamacare is working.... But Congress could have helped these people obtain coverage without ruining health care for everybody else....

Sebelius gets good sendoff Kansas City Star

By agreeing to serve as President Barack Obama's health and human services secretary five years ago, Kathleen Sebelius assumed a front-and-center role in a historical effort.

Presidents since Harry S. Truman have tried to end the moral injustice that left millions of Americans without access to affordable health care. Obama and the Democrats in Congress, who at the time controlled both chambers, had a mission and an opportunity to change the system.

Sebelius' role in getting the Affordable Care Act up and running was never easy, and it would become excruciating. But Sebelius, who resigned her post on April 11, contributed a great deal toward creating a fairer and better health care system for America.

Obama tapped Sebelius because she'd been insurance commissioner in Kansas and she'd succeeded as a Democratic governor in a state as Republican as they come. But Sebelius had the good fortune in Kansas to work with a Legislature populated at least in part by moderate Republicans who were willing to work with her for the good of the state.

Washington was different. For five years, the top priority of Republicans in Congress and in many state legislatures has been to sabotage the president's health care law.

States refused to create their own insurance exchanges, leaving the Health and Human Services Department with a bigger job than had been envisioned. Congressional Republicans refused to release money to properly promote the marketplaces.

None of that excuses the epic website debacle that nearly derailed the entire health care law.

As Kansas governor, Sebelius was a wonk-

ish, detail-oriented executive. But she lost control of the development of healthcare.gov, the insurance marketplace. The wrong people were in charge, lines of authority were unclear and too much was required in too short a time.

Sebelius either didn't realize the extent of the problems or she downplayed them to Obama with scenarios already sold.

The turnaround of HealthCare.gov has been as dramatic as its crash. By the March 31 deadline, enrollment in the insurance exchanges exceeded expectations.

After catching blame for the failure, Sebelius received little credit for the success. The White House staff that engineered the turnaround had little use for Sebelius and her team.

It was time for the secretary to leave. Obama's choice of Office of Management and Budget Director Sylvia Mathews Burwell to replace Sebelius indicates his desire to have a proven manager in charge as health care reform progresses. She is a good choice, and Congress should speedily confirm her.

As for Sebelius, history will treat her efforts more kindly than the headlines that are accompanying her departure....

Thanks in part to her work, millions of Americans will see a doctor and deal with serious medical problems without fear of financial ruin. Insurance policies can't be canceled when a consumer becomes seriously ill or reaches a lifetime limit on treatment. Hospitals are reducing errors and controlling costs.

Getting kids insured has always been a priority for Sebelius. So it's fitting that her resignation should come at the same time as a report showing the uninsured rate for children dropped 2.2 percentage points while she was in office, to 7.5 percent. That rate of new makes for a very satisfying sendoff.

Oppose SNP on nuke subs Wall Street Journal

Proponents of Scottish independence have made the removal of nuclear-armed British submarines from Scotland's waters a centerpiece of their campaign ahead of a Sept. 18 referendum. In Edinburgh, anti-nuclear politics reign.

Since the days of the Cold War, the Royal Navy has operated submarines armed with ballistic nuclear missiles out of Faslane, a base on the river Clyde, 25 miles northwest of Glasgow. Trident missiles are also stored at a Royal Navy armaments depot near Coulport village.

The rising pro-independence Scottish National Party views the Trident as a symbol of British imperialism. "For decades we have been part of a Westminster system that has sought to project global power," the SNP's pro-independence white paper says. "Trident is an affront to basic decency with its indiscriminate and inhumane destructive power."

Should the Scottish people vote to leave the United Kingdom, the SNP says, the Trident subs will have to be removed from Scotland's waters by 2020. SNP leaders seem to be indifferent to the practical head-on cost of up to £20 billion in estimated costs London will have to bear to relocate a fleet of nuclear submarines.

An independent Scotland, the SNP argues, can still join NATO as a non-nuclear member no longer obliged to host strategic weapons. Yet NATO is a nuclear alliance, and any move toward nuclear disarmament is freeloading. The party wants Scotland to enjoy the benefits of the British and Western nuclear deterrent without having to bear its historical responsibility for maintaining it.

On Tuesday, Russia test-fired the RS-24, a new ICBM that, according to the Russian media, has a range of more than 10,000 kilometers. The SNP may imagine that the need for nuclear deterrence is a thing of the past, but sober people shouldn't. The SNP's nuclear dodge is another reason, among many needed, for voters to reject its feckless politics.

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Why high oil prices can benefit airlines

BY SCOTT MAYEROWITZ
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Airline executives frequently complain about fuel costs. But the truth is higher prices actually have been good for business.

In the past six years, airlines have overhauled the way they operate to adjust to this new reality. They've shown more discipline by offering fewer seats, which ensures airfares are high enough to

cover costs. Unprofitable routes have been eliminated. And every expense has been scrutinized.

Those changes, along with high oil prices, have created an insurmountable roadblock to startup airlines that hope to undercut established carriers.

A decade ago, airlines were paying just \$1.42 per gallon for fuel, when adjusted for inflation. Last year, they paid an average of \$3.03 per gallon, according to the Bureau of Transportation Statis-

tics. Fuel now accounts for more than a third of airlines' expenses, overtaking salaries, wages and benefits as the single biggest line item. U.S. carriers burned through 16 billion gallons of jet fuel last year at cost of \$48.4 billion. That's up nearly \$23 billion from 10 years ago — when the airlines consumed 2 billion more gallons of fuel.

So why is that good?
High oil prices forced the major airlines to do business differently.

They grounded older, gas-guzzling jets. Then they charged extra for checking baggage and raised other fees. More passengers were packed into planes and mergers helped push airfares higher. The average cost of a round-trip domestic ticket — including baggage and reservation change fees — grew to \$378.62 from \$351.48 in the past five years, when adjusted for inflation.

All of that has them on pace for a fifth consecutive year of profits.

EUROPE GAS PRICES

| Country | Super E10 | Super unleaded | Super plus | Diesel |
|-----------------|------------|----------------|------------|------------|
| Germany | \$4.88 | \$4.69 | \$4.43 | \$4.18 |
| Change in price | +5.5 cents | +5.4 cents | +4.8 cents | -0.7 cents |
| Netherlands | -- | \$4.878 | \$5.172 | \$5.054 |
| Change in price | -- | +7.6 cents | +7.9 cents | +3.6 cents |
| U.K. | -- | \$3.995 | \$4.148 | \$4.124 |
| Change in price | -- | +5.4 cents | +4.8 cents | -0.7 cents |
| Azores | -- | -- | \$4.482 | -- |
| Change in price | -- | -- | no change | -- |
| Belgium | -- | \$3.851 | \$4.164 | \$4.190 |
| Change in price | -- | no change | no change | no change |
| Turkey | -- | -- | \$4.445 | \$4.057 |
| Change in price | -- | -- | no change | -0.7 cents |
| Italy | \$3.936 | -- | -- | \$4.239 |
| Change in price | no change | -- | -- | no change |

PACIFIC GAS PRICES

| Country | Unleaded | Super unleaded | Super plus | Diesel |
|-----------------|------------|----------------|------------|-----------|
| Japan | -- | \$3.819 | -- | \$4.949 |
| Change in price | -- | +6.0 cents | -- | no change |
| Okinawa | \$3.649 | -- | -- | \$4.949 |
| Change in price | +6.0 cents | -- | -- | no change |
| South Korea | \$3.989 | -- | \$4.229 | \$4.209 |
| Change in price | +6.0 cents | -- | +5.0 cents | no change |
| Guam | \$3.899** | \$4.069 | \$4.229 | -- |
| Change in price | +5.0 cents | +5.0 cents | +5.0 cents | -- |

*** Diesel E85 ** Midgrade**
For the week of April 19-25

MARKET WATCH

| April 16, 2014 | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Dow Jones industrials | 162.29 16,424.85 |
| Nasdaq composite | 52.07 4,086.23 |
| Standard & Poor's 500 | 19.33 1,862.31 |
| Russell 2000 | +12.27 1,131.77 |

EXCHANGE RATES

| Military rates | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| Euro costs (April 18) | \$1.4205 |
| Dollar buys (April 18) | €0.7040 |
| British pound (April 18) | £0.7500 |
| Japanese yen (April 18) | ¥100.00 |
| South Korean won (April 18) | ₩1,011.00 |
| Commercial rates | |
| Bahrain (Dinar) | 0.3711 |
| British pound | £1.6816 |
| Canada (Dollar) | 1.0996 |
| China (Yuan) | 6.2207 |
| Denmark (Krone) | 5.9535 |
| Egypt (Pound) | 3.3983 |
| India (Rupee) | \$1.3895/₹72.88 |
| Hong Kong (Dollar) | 7.7543 |
| Hungary (Forint) | 222.01 |
| Israel (Shekel) | 3.4767 |
| Japan (Yen) | 102.18 |
| Kuwait (Dinar) | 281.6 |
| Norway (Krone) | 5.9783 |
| Poland (Zloty) | 44.40 |
| Romania (Leu) | 3.0133 |
| Poland (Zloty) | 3.0133 |
| Saudi Arabia (Riyal) | 3.7504 |
| Singapore (Dollar) | 1.2499 |
| South Korea (Won) | 1,035.53 |
| Switzerland (Franc) | 89.06 |
| Thailand (Baht) | 32.18 |

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

INTEREST RATES

| | |
|---------------------------------|------|
| Prime rate | 3.25 |
| Discount rate | 0.75 |
| Federal funds market rate | 0.10 |
| 3-month bill | 0.04 |
| 30-year bond | 3.45 |

WEATHER OUTLOOK

FRIDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



FRIDAY IN EUROPE



SATURDAY IN THE PACIFIC



Friday's US temperatures

[illegible]

National temperature extremes
Hi: Wed., 103, Death Valley, Calif.
Lo: Wed., -9, Spincich Lake, Mich.

Frazz



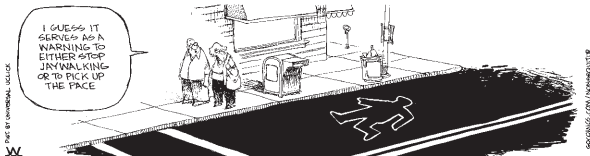
Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



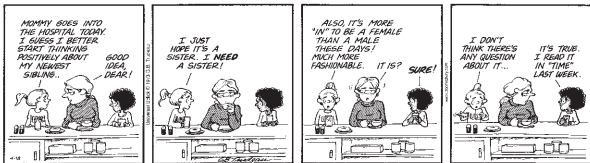
Candorville



Get Fuzzy



Doonesbury



Fort Knox



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | 6 | 7 | 8 | | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | | | | | | 13 | | | | 14 | | |
| 15 | | | | | | 16 | | | 17 | | | |
| | | | 18 | | | 19 | | | | 20 | | |
| 21 | 22 | | | 23 | | | | 24 | | | | |
| 25 | | | 26 | | 27 | | 28 | | | | | |
| 29 | | | | 30 | | | 31 | | | 32 | 33 | 34 |
| | | | 35 | | | 36 | | | 37 | | | |
| 38 | 39 | 40 | | | | 41 | | 42 | | 43 | | |
| 44 | | | | | 45 | | | | 46 | | | |
| 47 | | | | | 48 | | | 49 | | | 50 | 51 |
| 52 | | | | 53 | | | | 54 | | | | |
| 55 | | | | | 56 | | | 57 | | | | |

ACROSS

- Wedding memento
- Clothes protector
- Snitch
- 60 minutes, in Marseille
- Green, in a way
- Inventor Whitney
- "— song of six-pence ..."
- Caresed
- Heart surgeon
- Cooley
- Carry on
- Blanc or Brooks
- Pitch
- Gender
- Concept
- Surpasses
- Bat
- Workout exercise
- Superman
- portrayer

57 Passover feast

DOWN

- Spa sounds
- Island neckwear
- Made into a bale
- Press on
- Intended
- Preceding
- PC picture
- "— voyage!"
- Take ten
- Painkiller brand
- Ocean's motions
- Formal
- Dinetette need
- Karaoke prop, for short
- School URL ending
- Ex-Beate Sutcliffe
- Word that may accompany a handshake
- I hope (Lat.)
- Wet wriggler
- Took care of
- Guitar's kin
- Calif. hrs.
- Graffiti artist, to some
- Gathered leaves
- Nearly identical
- Tarzan's transport system
- Van Gogh venue
- Big rig
- Green land
- Schlep
- Blackjack component
- Middle (Aabr.)

Answer to Previous Puzzle

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | H | A | M | | U | M | P | | H | U | S | H |
| C | O | L | A | | N | E | E | | O | N | T | O |
| A | L | A | S | | D | A | D | | O | D | I | E |
| R | A | N | K | | L | E | | I | N | K | E | R |
| | | | | | E | A | R | | O | A | R | |
| S | P | U | D | | D | O | U | G | H | B | O | Y |
| K | I | N | | | O | W | N | | I | R | E | |
| I | N | D | U | | L | G | E | D | E | D | E | N |
| | | | | | E | N | E | | E | R | A | |
| L | A | R | D | | E | R | | R | E | G | R | E |
| A | L | T | O | | U | M | A | | L | E | A | R |
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| S | A | W | S | | K | I | M | | S | A | L | T |

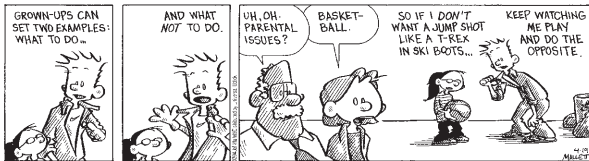
4-18

CRYPTOQUIP

D FEYDM RDA PUUC DBRSCO
DCJ S'F DVMDSJ EV DY
JUCWSAWA, PZW SW'A DPEZW

WSFU WE VDBU WRU WEEWR.
Yesterday's Cryptquip: THE COUPLE'S LIGHT-
HAired BABY CAN BENCH-PRESS A LOT. I
GUESS THEY HAD A REALLY STRONG BLOND.
Today's Cryptquip Clue: S equals I

Frazz



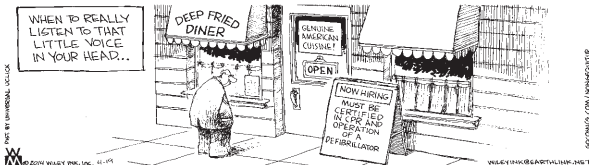
Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



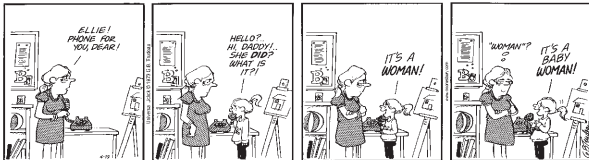
Candorville



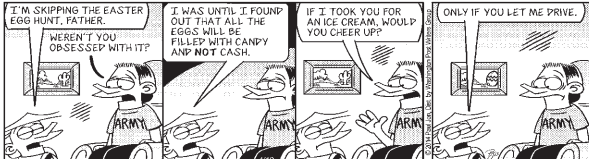
Get Fuzzy



Doonesbury



Fort Knox



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|----|----|----|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | |
| 11 | | | | | | | 12 | | | | | 13 |
| 14 | | | | | | | 15 | | | | | |
| 16 | | | | | 17 | | 18 | | | 19 | | |
| 20 | | 21 | | | 22 | | | 23 | | | | |
| 24 | | | | 25 | | 26 | | 27 | | | | |
| | | | 28 | | 29 | | 30 | | | | | |
| 31 | 32 | 33 | | | | 34 | | 35 | | 36 | 37 | 38 |
| 39 | | | | | | 40 | | 41 | | 42 | | |
| 43 | | | | 44 | | | | 45 | | 46 | | |
| 47 | | | | | | | | 49 | | 50 | | |
| 51 | | | | | | | | 52 | | | | |
| | | 53 | | | | | | 54 | | | | |

ACROSS

- 1 Zoo structures
- 6 Spanish appetizers
- 11 Keel
- 12 Off-key
- 14 Digital counterpart
- 15 Dowager's pet, maybe
- 16 Felonious flight
- 17 "The Crucible" setting
- 19 Stoolie
- 20 Grand tale
- 22 Here-there link
- 23 Tractor-trailer
- 24 Attack from all sides
- 26 Foolproof
- 28 Homer's neighbor
- 30 Aachen article
- 31 Window cover
- 35 Titled women
- 39 Belligerent deity
- 40 Annoy
- 42 Shetland, for one
- 43 GPS display
- 44 Taken for granted
- 46 Peak (Abbr.)
- 47 Pristine
- 49 Waist-length jacket
- 51 2002 movie about a virtual actress
- 52 Tied the score

DOWN

- 3 Church sections
- 5 Social level
- 23 Knapsack part
- 25 Afternoon gathering
- 27 Roulette bet
- 29 Splits
- 31 "The Stranger" writer
- 32 Astronomers' Muse
- 33 Seek more oil, maybe
- 34 Calif., neighbor
- 36 Second
- 37 Main course
- 38 Religious council
- 41 Mediterranean sailing ship
- 44 Hereditary unit
- 45 PBS science show
- 48 "Help!"
- 50 "Miserables"

Answer to Previous Puzzle

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | L | B | U | M | | B | I | B | | R | A | T |
| H | E | U | R | E | | E | C | O | | E | L | I |
| S | I | N | G | A | | F | O | N | D | L | E | D |
| | | | | | D | E | N | T | O | N | | R |
| M | E | L | | T | A | R | | S | E | X | E | S |
| I | D | E | A | | B | E | S | T | S | | | |
| C | U | D | G | E | L | | P | U | S | H | U | P |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| R | A | V | E | L | | A | R | A | | N | E | T |
| A | L | I | E | | S | N | O | R | E | D | | |
| K | I | N | D | L | E | D | | L | I | L | A | C |
| E | K | E | | U | M | A | | E | R | E | C | T |
| D | E | S | | G | I | L | | S | E | D | E | R |

4-19

CRYPTOQUIP

B F P Q K F B K Y F V W B D I

B M Y X F P K J R I X P O D K, F ' R

Z C F P O F P A Z C X Z R F A C Z C X N K

X Q Z F N X Z K J R I D F R M P V J K B.

Yesterday's Cryptquip: A MOLAR HAS BEEN ACHING AND I'M AFRAID OF ALL DENTISTS, BUT IT'S ABOUT TIME TO FACE THE TOOTH.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: R equals M

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AUTO RACING



STEVE HELMER/AP

Darrell Wallace Jr., right, winner of Saturday's NASCAR Camping World Truck race, smiles as he listens to Wendell Scott Jr., left, during a news conference at Martinsville Speedway in Martinsville, Va. Wallace Jr. was the first black driver to win a NASCAR race since the 1960s when he took the checkered flag in a Truck Series race at Martinsville.

NASCAR notebook

Wallace Jr. out to become Tiger Woods of NASCAR

By DAN GELSTON
The Associated Press

Darrell Wallace Jr. was the first black driver to win a NASCAR race since the 1960s when he took the checkered flag in a Truck Series race at Martinsville last year. The 20-year-old Wallace, who goes by Bubba, has openly talked of becoming the Tiger Woods of NASCAR — the great black star who can transcend the sport and prove people of all colors can race. He rebounded from a crash in the season-opening Truck race at Daytona to finish second at Martinsville last month.

"We're trying to carry that momentum from Martinsville on to Kansas, so it's a little tough," Wallace said. "But I'm trying to have fun as much as I can, getting in and out of the shop as much as I can, checking on the progress of all the trucks that are being built."

Wallace drives the No. 54 Toyota for Kyle Busch Motorsports, which has perks. He can learn from one of the best drivers across all three NASCAR series. But the drawback is that Busch usually dominates when he jumps down to the Truck Series. Busch won five times last season, has one win this year and 36 in his career.

"The most frustrating thing about last year is looking back at how many races we were faster than Kyle," Wallace said. "Every race it seemed like we wrecked

out, he would win. So there were a couple of races that we should have had on our win list. But that's just part of the rookie blues and the rookie stripes. So I definitely know what I have to do now this year and use that as motivation to get out there and perform better. I'm using our motto. It's just better every finish from last year."

NASCAR has initiated several pushes toward boosting the number of minorities in the sport. There's a Drive for Diversity program that paid some dividends with Wallace and Kyle Larson after struggling to find racers for the top series. The program is 11 years old and was designed to attract minorities and women to the sport in all fields, from the track to the front office. He was also part of NASCAR's "Next!" class of up-and-coming drivers.

"You get to do so many things that you didn't think you'd be able to do," Wallace said. "It's just a lot of fun to be able to race with your peers and be along with them. And at such a young age group, you get to have a lot of fun."

Live qualifying: Live, from Talladega, it's NASCAR qualifying on network TV.

The May 3 NASCAR Sprint Cup knockout qualifying session from Talladega Superspeedway will be aired on Fox — believed to be the first time the session will be televised live on network TV other than the Daytona 500.

"This move is a direct result of the double-digit ratings gains NASCAR's new knockout qualifying format is delivering every weekend," said Bill Wanger, executive vice president of programming, research & content strategy. "We are thrilled to be able to highlight this new format on Fox, and what more exciting place to do that than Talladega Superspeedway."

NASCAR made numerous changes for this season, including a tweaked qualifying process in an effort to even up what had become a monotonous part of race weekend.

Instead of going out one at a time, the entire field gets a 30-minute session to post their fastest lap, with the top 12 moving on to a 10-minute second round. On bigger tracks, the qualifying will have three sessions, with the field cut to 24 then 12.

Jadotte departs: Marcus Jadotte, who was vice president of public affairs and multicultural development, has left NASCAR.

Jadotte led the development of the NASCAR Drive for Diversity (D4D) and NASCAR Pit Crew Development programs. These initiatives focus on developing the skills of promising female, Asian, Latino and African-American drivers and crew members in NASCAR.

NASCAR's Drive for Diversity program will continue under Executive Vice President Steve O'Donnell.

Around the track

SPRINT CUP

Next race: Toyota Owners 400, April 26, Richmond International Raceway, Richmond, Va.
Last week: Kevin Harvick won the Southern 500 at Darlington to become the first repeat winner this season. Dale Earnhardt Jr. was second.
Online: nascar.com

NATIONWIDE SERIES

Next race: ToyotaCare 250, April 25, Richmond International Raceway, Richmond, Va.
Last week: Chase Elliott won at Darlington for his second straight series victory. He's the 18-year-old son of NASCAR great Bill Elliott.
Online: nascar.com

CAMPING WORLD TRUCK

Next race: SFP 250, May 9, Kansas Speedway, Kansas City, Mo.
Last race: Defending series champion Matt Crafton won the rain-delayed race at Martinsville on March 30 for his fourth career victory. Darrell Wallace was second.
Online: nascar.com

FORMULA ONE

This week: Chinese Grand Prix at Shanghai, China.
Track: Shanghai International Circuit (road course, 3.39 miles).
Race distance: 189.7 miles, 56 laps.
April 12: Ferrari's Fernando Alonso pulled away for a 10-second victory.
Last race: Lewis Hamilton won in Bahrain on April 6 for his second straight victory, beating Mercedes teammate Nico Rosberg by a second.
Fast facts: The race is the fourth of the season. Rosberg won the season-opening race in Australia and also was second behind Hamilton in Malaysia. ... Hermann Tilke and Peter Wahl designed the track. The course is shaped like the Chinese character "shang," which stands for "high" or "above."
Next race: Spanish Grand Prix, May 11, Circuit de Catalunya, Barcelona, Spain
Online: formula1.com

NHRA MELLO YELLO DRAG RACING

Next event: O'Reilly Auto Parts NHRA Spring Nationals, April 25-27, Royal Purple Raceway, Baytown, Texas.
Last week: Robert Hight became the first driver to win a Funny Car winner in the NHRA Four-Wide Nationals, beating John Force, Alexis DeJoria and Tim Wilkerson in the final. Antron Brown won the Top Fuel division, Sweden's Jimmy Alton topped the Pro Stock field to become the first European winner in the series, and Andrew Hines won in Pro Stock Motorcycle.
Online: nhra.com

VERIZON INDYCAR

Next race: Grand Prix of Alabama, April 27, Barber Motorsports Park, Birmingham, Ala.
Last week: Mike Conway won at Long Beach for Ed Carpenter Racing, taking the lead when Scott Dixon stopped for fuel two laps from the finish.
Online: indycar.com
— The Associated Press

Driver standings

| | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| 1. Jeff Gordon | 297 |
| 2. Matt Kenseth | 296 |
| 3. Carl Edwards | 278 |
| 4. Dale Earnhardt Jr. | 271 |
| 5. Jimmie Johnson | 270 |
| 6. Kyle Busch | 269 |
| 7. Brad Keselowski | 246 |
| 8. Joey Logano | 245 |
| 9. Ryan Newman | 236 |
| 10. Austin Dillon | 235 |
| 11. Greg Biffle | 227 |
| 12. Tony Stewart | 224 |
| 13. Brian Vickers | 224 |
| 14. Kyle Larson | 223 |
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| 20. Jamie McMurray | 195 |

Sprint Cup schedule

| |
|---|
| Feb. 23 — Daytona 500 (Dale Earnhardt Jr.) |
| March 2 — The Profit on CNBC 500, Avondale, Ariz. (Kevin Harvick) |
| March 9 — Kobalt 400, Las Vegas (Brad Keselowski) |
| March 16 — Food City 500, Bristol, Tenn. (Carl Edwards) |
| March 23 — Auto Club 400, Fontana, Calif. (Kyle Busch) |
| March 30 — STP 500, Ridgeway, Va. (Kurt Busch) |
| April 7 — Duck Commander 500, Fort Worth, Texas (Joey Logano) |
| April 12 — Bojangles' Southern 500, Darlington, S.C. (Kevin Harvick) |
| April 26 — Toyota Owners 400, Richmond, Va. |
| May 10 — Aaron's 499, Talladega, Ala. |
| May 18 — Kansas 400, Kansas City, Kan. |
| May 25 — Coca-Cola 600, Concord, N.C. |
| June 1 — Dover 400, Dover, Del. |
| June 8 — Pocono 400, Long Pond, Pa. |
| June 15 — Quicken Loans 400, Brooklyn, Mich. |
| June 22 — Toyota/Save Mart 350, Sonoma, Calif. |
| June 28 — Quaker State 400, Sparta, N.J. |
| July 5 — Coke Zero 400, Daytona Beach, Fla. |
| July 13 — Camping World RV Sales 301, Loudon, N.H. |
| July 27 — The Brickyard 400, Indianapolis. |
| Aug. 3 — GoBowling.com 400, Long Beach, Pa. |
| Aug. 10 — Kmart 355 at the Glen, Watkins Glen, N.Y. |
| Aug. 17 — Pure Michigan 400, Brooklyn, Mich. |
| Aug. 23 — Irwin Tools Night Race, Bristol, Tenn. |
| Aug. 31 — Atlanta 500, Hampton, Ga. |
| Sept. 6 — Federated Auto Parts 400, Richmond, Va. |
| Sept. 14 — Chicagoland 400, Joliet, Ill. |
| Sept. 21 — Sylva 300, Loudon, N.H. |
| Sept. 28 — AAA 400, Dover, Del. |
| Oct. 5 — Hollywood Casino 400, Kansas City, Kan. |
| Oct. 11 — Bank of America 500, Concord, N.C. |
| Oct. 19 — GEICO 500, Talladega, Ala. |
| Oct. 26 — Goody's Headache Relief Shot 500, Ridgeway, Va. |
| Nov. 2 — AAA Texas 500, Fort Worth, Texas |
| Nov. 9 — Quicken Loans 500, Avondale, Ariz. |
| Nov. 16 — Ford EcoBoost 400, Homestead, Fla. |

GOLF

Captain Watson keeps eye on contenders

US Ryder Cup team leader playing RBC Heritage to watch potential picks in action

By PETE IACOBELLI
The Associated Press

HILTON HEAD ISLAND, S.C. — Tom Watson wants to take a closer look at American prospects for the Ryder Cup, so the U.S. captain is playing in the RBC Heritage this week.

Watson won at Harbour Town Golf Links in 1979 and 1982 at the height of his run as one of the game's best. But these days the 64-year-old Watson is walking through locker rooms and watching scoreboards as he seeks the type of gritty U.S. players necessary to compete at Gleneagles Hotel in Scotland this September.

"I am doing what I am supposed to be doing as Ryder Cup captain and getting to know the players, getting to watch them," Watson said Wednesday, a day before he teed it up alongside Masters runner-up Jordan Spieth and the 2012 Ryder Cup captain Davis Love III.

"There's a lot of things that go into choosing the three picks that I have at my disposal," he said. "And I'm going to try and get as much relevant information as possible."

It appeared as if the United States would earn the cup under Love's watch, carrying a 10-6 lead into the final day's singles matches. Instead, Europe won eight of the 12 pairings and halved another at Medinah Country Club to claim the Ryder Cup for the fifth time in the past six meetings.

Enter Watson, part of three U.S. victories in 1977, 1981 and 1983. He also was captain in 1993 when the Americans defended their title at The Belfry in the United States' last victory on European soil.

He's done a lot of organizing and now hopes to get up-close views of players who'll qualify for the squad and candidates for his three captain's picks.

Watson played nine holes at Augusta National last week with Patrick Reed, currently fifth in the Ryder Cup points standings. He'll have at least 36 holes to watch Spieth, who rose to No. 4 on the American list with his runner-up finish to current points leader Bubba Watson at the Masters.

Watson already likes the 20-year-old Spieth, feeling the two have similar styles in their approaches to the game.

"I have to laugh, sometimes he gets up



CHRIS CARLSON/AP

U.S. Ryder Cup captain Tom Watson is playing in the RBC Heritage this week in order to get an up-close look at players with potential to compete for the U.S. in September in Scotland. He was set to play with Masters runner-up Jordan Spieth on Thursday.

there and he hits a bad shot, and [says], 'That's real close,' about 40 yards off the line," Watson said. "That's exactly what I would say."

Watson plans to attend several more PGA Tour events this season, including the Memorial next month, the Greenbrier Classic in July and the last two majors, the

British Open and the PGA Championship.

Love, the last U.S. captain, said now is the time players in the running realize the captain is watching and evaluating their play and style. Love remembers at the Masters that year contender Mark Wilson cut in front of him at a practice round, turned around and said, "I probably shouldn't

have done that, should I?"

"Nope, shouldn't have done that," Love playfully responded.

Love, who plans to play much of the tour season after dealing with injuries the past two years, has offered to help Watson and assistant captains Raymond Floyd and Andy North with anything they need.

Watson surely will hear from Love as the two watch Spieth take on Harbour Town.

"It'll be fun," Love said. "If you noticed, Jordan is ready to go. He doesn't need much help except to show up on time."

Watson would not answer when asked to speculate on how much Tiger Woods would have to play following his injury to warrant a pick on the team.

"Tiger I hope just basically gets well and starts playing well again," Watson said. "If he gets well and is playing well, I'll pick him."

Watson loves experience. He remembered in 1993 when golfers 11 through 17 on the points list were struggling — "Playing cruddy," Watson says — at the end and he chose steady veterans Floyd and Lanny Wadkins, who proved essential to the winning effort.

Watson says his experience with Ryder Cup success matters much more than his age at these impromptu job interviews.

"Age doesn't have any relevance at all," he said. "I can relate to the players through the game, how the game is played, how they're playing. That's what we're going to be talking about."



Spieth

'It'll be fun. If you noticed, Jordan is ready to go. He doesn't need much help except to show up on time.'

Davis Love III
previous Ryder Cup captain

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MLB



PHOTOS BY JULIO CORTES/AP

Volunteers paint over graffiti on the walls of Hinchliffe Stadium on Wednesday in Paterson, N.J. Hinchliffe Stadium was once home to the New York Black Yankees, the New York Cubans and other Negro League baseball teams. Eleven members of the National Baseball Hall of Fame played there, including Larry Doby. The crumbling Art Deco stadium was granted national historic landmark status in 2013. Lawmakers are pushing to designate it as part of the nearby Great Falls National Historical Park.

Making a comeback

Historians, volunteers, former player working to make Negro League stadium useable again

By SAMANTHA HENRY
The Associated Press

The light touch of a paint roller is enough to dislodge a chunk of plaster from the crumbling walls of Hinchliffe Stadium.

Though silent for decades, the former home of several Negro League teams is getting another chance at bat as baseball's first National Historic Landmark.

Historians, volunteers, activists and a former Negro League player who has pushed for decades to save the stadium say the place is more than worthy of the designation, formally recognized with a plaque and dedication ceremony Wednesday.

"These athletes were so passionate about the game of baseball that they were willing to

endure whatever social adversity confronted them as they traveled the highways and byways of this country — just to play baseball," said Bob Kendrick, president of the Kansas City, Mo.-based Negro League Baseball Museum, who attended the dedication. "That passion would not only change our sport, but it would change our country for the better."

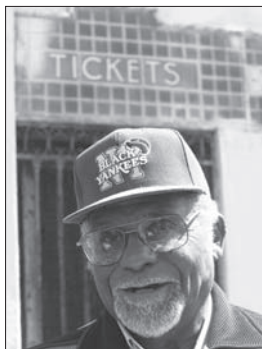
Other sporting cathedrals such as Fenway Park and Wrigley Field have national profiles, but haven't advanced to landmark status. D. Brent Legges of the National Trust for Historic Preservation said. Boston's Fenway is on the National Register of Historic Places, as was Hinchliffe until last year when designated a landmark. Chicago's Wrigley Field is eligible for landmark status but has yet to go through the process.

Hinchliffe opened in 1932. And besides home to the New York Black Yankees, the New York Cubans and other teams, it was a Depression Era haven for working-class kids. Eleven members of the National Baseball Hall of Fame played at Hinchliffe, including Larry Doby, who went to high school in Paterson and whose son attended Wednesday's ceremony.

Doby integrated the American League in July 1947, just months after Jackie Robinson broke the National League's color barrier — actions being celebrated this week by Major League Baseball.

The Friends of Hinchliffe Stadium hopes to restore the stadium for use by new generations in the working-class neighborhood where it stands. So far, the group has raised \$1.2 million to stabilize the structure, but knows millions more will be needed to fully restore it.

School groups and other volunteers Wednesday helped paint the walls of the stadium and remove thickets of weeds, taking



Robert "Bob" Scott, who once pitched for the New York Black Yankees of the Negro League baseball league, stands outside of Hinchliffe Stadium on Wednesday in Paterson, N.J. Scott, 82, said he hopes to see the stadium restoration completed and kids playing in it.

less than an hour to transform decades of multi-layered graffiti into a freshly painted surface.

"I hope I'll be able to see it finished and be built so young kids can come here and enjoy themselves, and grow up to be great people," said Robert "Bob" Scott, a pitcher for the New York Black Yankees from 1946-1950. Scott is now 82.

U.S. Rep. Bill Pascrell, a Paterson native who pushed for landmark status for the stadium and nearby Great Falls national park, has introduced legislation to incorporate the stadium into the footprint of the park, which would make the stadium eligible for more funding.

Yankees needing first aid

By HOWIE RUMBERG
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Who's on first? For the New York Yankees, it's not a joke.

Since Mark Teixeira went on the disabled list April 5 with a strained right hamstring, the \$200 million Bronx Bombers have cobbled together a platoon at first base.

Kelly Johnson made his 10th start at first this season for Wednesday's doubleheader opener against the Chicago Cubs. In the other two games after Teixeira's injury, catcher Francisco Cervelli started at first twice.

Coming into the season, neither had started at first — although Johnson had shifted there three times during games.

And when Cervelli strained his right hamstring in the fourth inning Sunday, Carlos Beltran took over for Cervelli at first against Boston. Beltran had made 1,970 big league starts in the outfield and not a single appearance at first base in a 17-year career.

Yankees manager Joe Girardi had little choice but to use the player signed during the offseason to a \$45 million, three-year contract because New York also was without second baseman Brian Roberts (sore back) and shortstop Derek Jeter (tight right quadriceps).

"I can put (Scott) Sizemore there. I think can put (Yanger-vis) Solarte there and, obviously, I know can put Beltran there — probably would be my second choice though," Girardi said with a laugh.

The Yankees brought up Sizemore from Triple-A Scranton/Wilkes-Barre after Cervelli was hurt. Coming off two injury-wrecked seasons, Sizemore said he briefly worked out at first in Scranton but he doesn't even own a first baseman's glove.

Solarte played first base once in 627 minor league games and hasn't played there — yet — in the big leagues.

The makeshift plans will have to do until Teixeira comes back. He's eligible to come off the DL on Sunday.



KATHY WILLEMS/AP

A Yankees trainer, left, talks to Francisco Cervelli after he was injured on Sunday. Cervelli, who was filling in for the injured Mark Teixeira at first base, was replaced by Carlos Beltran.



High school student LaTia Conover paints over graffiti at Hinchliffe Stadium in Paterson, N.J.

NBA

Scoreboard

Playoffs
FIRST ROUND
(Best-of-seven)
(If necessary)

| EASTERN CONFERENCE | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Indiana vs. Atlanta | |
| Saturday, April 19: at Atlanta | |
| Tuesday, April 22: at Atlanta | |
| Thursday, April 24: at Atlanta | |
| Saturday, April 26: at Atlanta | |
| x-Monday, April 28: at Indiana | |
| x-Thursday, May 1: at Atlanta | |
| x-Saturday, May 3: at Indiana | |
| Miami vs. Charlotte | |
| Sunday, April 21: at Miami | |
| Wednesday, April 23: at Miami | |
| Thursday, April 24: at Charlotte | |
| x-Friday, April 25: at Charlotte | |
| x-Saturday, April 26: at Miami | |
| x-Friday, May 2: at Charlotte | |
| x-Sunday, May 4: at Miami | |
| Toronto vs. Brooklyn | |
| Saturday, April 19: at Toronto | |
| Tuesday, April 22: at Toronto | |
| Friday, April 25: at Brooklyn | |
| Sunday, April 27: at Brooklyn | |
| x-Monday, April 28: at Toronto | |
| x-Friday, May 2: at Brooklyn | |
| x-Saturday, May 3: at Toronto | |
| WESTERN CONFERENCE | |
| San Antonio vs. Dallas | |
| Sunday, April 21: at San Antonio | |
| Wednesday, April 23: at San Antonio | |
| Thursday, April 24: at Dallas | |
| Monday, April 28: at Dallas | |
| x-Wednesday, April 30: at San Antonio | |
| x-Friday, May 2: at Dallas | |
| x-Saturday, May 3: at San Antonio | |
| Oklahoma City vs. Memphis | |
| Saturday, April 19: at Oklahoma City | |
| Monday, April 22: at Oklahoma City | |
| Thursday, April 24: at Memphis | |
| Saturday, April 26: at Memphis | |
| x-Monday, April 28: at Oklahoma City | |
| x-Thursday, May 1: at Memphis | |
| x-Saturday, May 3: at Oklahoma City | |
| L.A. Clippers vs. Golden State | |
| Saturday, April 19: at L.A. Clippers | |
| Monday, April 22: at L.A. Clippers | |
| Thursday, April 24: at Golden State | |
| Sunday, April 27: at Golden State | |
| x-Tuesday, April 29: at L.A. Clippers | |
| x-Thursday, May 1: at Golden State | |
| x-Saturday, May 3: at L.A. Clippers | |
| Houston vs. Portland | |
| Sunday, April 21: at Houston | |
| Wednesday, April 23: at Houston | |
| Friday, April 25: at Portland | |
| Sunday, April 27: at Portland | |
| x-Wednesday, April 30: at Houston | |
| x-Friday, May 2: at Portland | |
| x-Saturday, May 3: at Houston | |

Leaders

Scoring

G FG FT PTS

Durant, OKC

Anthony, NYC

James, MIA

Love, MIN

Harden, HOU

Griffin, LAC

Curry, GSW

Adams, POR

Cousins, SAC

DeRozan, TOR

Jefferson, CHA

George, IND

Nowitzki, DAL

Ivings, CLE

Davis, BOS

Lillard, POR

Thompson, MEM

Dragic, PHX

Gay, SAC

Wall, WSH

Rebounds

G ORF DEF TOT AVG

Jordan, LAC

Nowitzki, DAL

Love, MIN

Howard, HOU

Cousins, SAC

Noah, CHI

Adams, POR

Jefferson, CHA

Randolph, MEM

Davis, NOR

Assists

G AST AVG

Paul, LAC

Lawson, DEN

Rubio, MIN

Curry, GSW

Playoff picture

Brackets set as season wraps up

Durant captures
4th scoring title

BY TIM REYNOLDS

The Associated Press

MIAMI — Finally, the NBA playoffs are set.

It took the entire season to fill out those brackets.

Overtime thrillers in Memphis and Charlotte, a go-ahead dunk in Oklahoma City to win a game and cap another scoring title for Kevin Durant, plus some good old-fashioned disinterest by Brooklyn ... all that, and more, on the final night of the season was needed before the eight conference-quarterfinal matchups in this season's NBA playoffs could be decided.

In the Western Conference, San Antonio — the league's best team this season, and a club that had the NBA title slip from its fingers a year ago — opens with Dallas. Oklahoma City gets Memphis, the Los Angeles Clippers face Golden State and Houston squares off with Portland. In the East, it's Indiana against Atlanta, Miami against Charlotte, Toronto facing Brooklyn and Chicago meeting Washington.

And for the third straight year, it's the same question entering the playoffs: Can anyone beat the Heat?

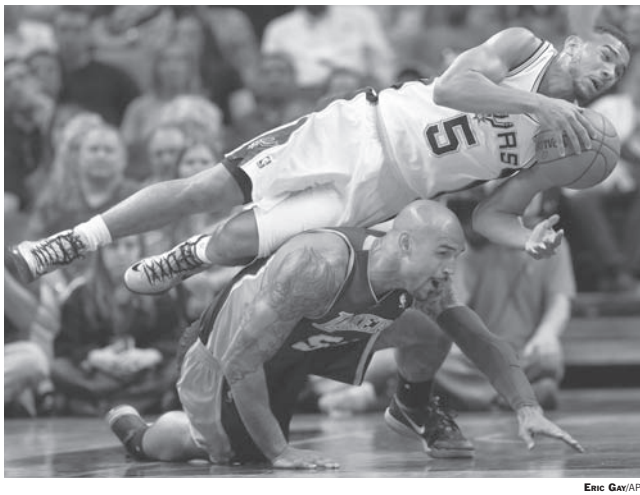
By late June, we'll have an answer.

"Now it's time," Houston's Chandler Parsons said, "for the real fun."

If what's occurred in the season's first 170 nights wasn't the real fun, then these playoffs could be epic.

More points were scored in the NBA than ever before this year, more three-pointers were both shot and made in league history, the Spurs won 62 games — including 19 straight — and Durant scored at least 25 points in 41 consecutive games, a stretch of offensive brilliance that spanned exactly half of the season. Durant wound up winning his fourth scoring crown, making him the overwhelming favorite to deny LeBron James a third straight MVP award.

James has taken the high road, lauding Durant's season and saying he would be a worthy MVP.



ERIC GAY/AP

The Spurs' Cory Joseph, top, tumbles over the Lakers' Robert Sacre as they chase a loose ball during Wednesday's game in San Antonio. While Los Angeles won 113-100, the Spurs nonetheless finished with an NBA-best 62 wins, earning the top seed in the West and the home-court advantage.

Really, though, it's obvious that the trophy James is most concerned with is the one that'll be handed out at season's end. The Heat won the last two championships of David Stern's era as commissioner, and would enjoy nothing more than being the first team to accept the Larry O'Brien Trophy from new Commissioner Adam Silver.

"What's coming over the next couple months, we know that's how we'll be judged," Heat forward Shane Battier said.

The 16 teams heading to the playoffs were known before Wednesday, but it wasn't until the final night before nine of the seeds were secured and six of the eight first-round matchups were finalized.

Memphis held off Dallas 106-105 in overtime, giving the Grizzlies the No. 7 seed and a shot at the Thunder. Monta Ellis' missed 20-foot jumper at the buzzer for the Mavericks meant they would be heading to San Antonio to open up the playoffs this weekend — and Dallas has lost nine

straight times to the Spurs.

"Eventually," Dallas star Dirk Nowitzki said, "we will win one."

Losing nine straight to one opponent, that's not good.

Losing 15 straight, even worse. That's what Charlotte has to overcome against the Heat — who are 15-0 against the Bobcats since James and Chris Bosh arrived to team with Dwyane Wade in Miami.

Charlotte went 7-59 two seasons ago. It went 43-39 this season, clearly having undergone a brilliant turnaround.

Alas, 43 wins wouldn't have come close to being enough out West.

Phoenix's title hopes were doomed by perhaps geography more than anything else. The Suns won 48 games and are done. Toronto won 48 games and earned both a No. 3 seed in the East and a division title.

"Very disappointing," Suns guard Archie Goodwin said.

The East was a mess entering the season's final night with five

seeds still up for grabs. Chicago lost to Charlotte in overtime, meaning Toronto finished third and the Bulls got No. 4. But the last three seeds needed a bit longer to be settled, and even though the Bobcats won, they couldn't pass a Washington team that wound up overtaking the Nets for fifth place before the night was over.

Nets coach Jason Kidd rested all five of his starters, plus some backups, even though his club could have finished No. 5.

"I like right where we are," Kidd said.

Kidd probably had a good idea going into Wednesday night that Washington would beat Boston, so it's clear that he didn't mind dropping down a spot in the East bracket. Brooklyn would likely face Miami — a team it swept — in the second round now. Had Brooklyn been the fifth seed and won an opening series, it would have likely faced Indiana, which topped the Nets in all four of their meetings.

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BOSTON MARATHON



DANNY JOHNSTON/AP

Amputee marathon runners Chris Madison, left, Jeff Glasbrenner, center, and Andre Slay train last month on the approach to a footbridge in Little Rock, Ark. Last year, Glasbrenner was three blocks from completing the Boston Marathon when the race was halted by two exploding bombs. On Monday, he'll be one of 4,781 runners from last year who are returning, and he is bringing newcomers Madison and Slay with him.

Unfinished business

One year later, amputee gets chance to complete race halted by bombs

By PAT GRAHAM
AND ALEX SANZ
The Associated Press

JUST ONE tiny misstep at mile 15 of the Boston Marathon last spring ruined any chance of amputee runner Jeff Glasbrenner breaking four hours.

He stumbled over a pothole, opening a cut where his running blade attached below his right knee. Glasbrenner cursed his luck as he stopped every mile to clean the wound.

That bump in the road just may have kept the 41-year-old from being in the midst of the chaos. He was three blocks from the finish when the marathon was halted by the two bomb explosions.

"A pothole," Glasbrenner said, "just may have saved me."

This year, he's one of 4,781 runners taking the iconic race up on its offer to return — an opportunity to settle some unfinished business when they line up at the start again.

For many, it's a chance to finally make good

on their months of training — dozens of workouts and hundreds of miles logged — and achieve that finish line. For Glasbrenner, his journey back to Boston became much more than simply finishing.

He's bringing some company, as he trained right-leg amputees Andre Slay and Chris Madison, both of whom had never even imagined running a marathon before.

"This is going to be a day filled with lots of joy and tears," said Glasbrenner, a motivational speaker and three-time Paralympian in wheelchair basketball. "But we're going to get to that finish line together."

'I'm not going to let a couple of bad guys steal my finish line.'

Jeff Glasbrenner
Paralympian

Glasbrenner has always been a "bucket list" sort of athlete — finish one adventure and move on to the next. He has completed 13 marathons and 22 Ironman triathlons.

So Glasbrenner just had to go back to Boston, to conclude this quest. For himself and for those injured when the twin pressure cooker bombs exploded, killing three and injuring 260. At least 16 people lost a limb or limbs.

SEE UNFINISHED ON PAGE 59

BOSTON MARATHON

Unfinished: Amputee was just three blocks from end

FROM PAGE 58

He could understand the devastation, having lost part of his leg in a farming accident when he was 8 years old.

"I had a hard time watching the news for a few days after Boston," said Glasbrenner, who was at 25.9 miles — according to his GPS tracker — when police stopped runners. "I'm not going to let a couple of bad guys steal my finish line."

He talked Slay and Madison into joining him at the starting line. It wasn't easy: Neither had even run as much as a 5-kilometer race. And first, they had to run a qualifying event (to get into the field for Boston, a mobility-impaired participant has to finish a marathon in less than eight hours).

The trio began training together late last June on paths around Little Rock. At least once a week, they met for a run. On those other days, Glasbrenner gave them a training schedule to follow. He was always a phone call or text away for questions, too.

Slay, 32, and Madison, 39, had plenty: How many socks to wear on their stump? How often to stop and clean the sweat from their prosthetic leg? And the biggest one: Could they really run a marathon?

Chris Madison
Amputee runner
"Sure, I had doubt," Slay said, laughing.

Slay worked at an airline ticket counter when he met Glasbrenner, who frequently travels to give lectures and check items off his sports bucket list. Slay was 24 and finishing flight school when he lost part of his right leg in a motorcycle accident.

First, Glasbrenner attempted to steer Slay toward wheelchair basketball.

No interest.
How about a marathon then?
"Jeff's like, 'I didn't finish Boston. Come back with me,'" Slay recounted. "I was thinking, 'Well, I guess I can hand you water.'"
"He's like, 'No, run with me.'"

The offer came at a good time. Slay was around 240 pounds and suffering from high blood pressure, which put his commercial pilot's license at risk. This could improve his health.

One slight obstacle: Slay didn't have a running blade, which costs around \$225,000 and isn't covered by insurance.

No trouble. Glasbrenner had an extra one he could use.

So that's how Slay found himself at a marathon in Colorado Springs last September, on a borrowed running blade, with only 10 miles of training under his belt, trying to qualify for Boston.



PHOTOS BY DANNY JOHNSTON/AP

Amputee marathon runners Andre Slay, right, Chris Madison, back, and Jeff Glasbrenner train in Little Rock, Ark., last month. Glasbrenner recruited Slay and Madison to run the Boston Marathon with him next week. Slay had to borrow Glasbrenner's spare running blade to begin training because insurance doesn't cover the cost of around \$25,000.



Jeff Glasbrenner, left, Chris Madison, center, and Andre Slay go through an exercise where they remove their running legs and adjust fittings. The runners must stop periodically in a race, losing as little time as possible, to make adjustments to help prevent blisters from forming on their stumps.

He didn't stop that day until mile eight, when he felt a blister where the blade attached. One blister soon turned into many more with each step he took.

"My leg looked like bubble wrap," said Slay, who finished in seven hours. "It was the most ex-

cruciating run of my life."

Those blisters eventually popped and became infected. For six weeks, he couldn't work, let alone run.

As he recuperated, he received a letter that bolstered his spirits — his acceptance into the Bos-

ton Marathon. Then, a prosthetic company donated a custom-made running blade.

"That starting line is going to be so emotional," Slay said.

Madison feels the same way. At the urging of a friend, he met Glasbrenner for lunch last spring.

Madison simply wanted to get some training tips to complete a triathlon.

How about a marathon, Glasbrenner suggested.

"Thought it was a cool idea and fit in with my wanting to do something," said Madison, who lost part of his leg when a boat ran into him while he was riding a jet-ski when he was 10. "I didn't realize the magnitude of what I was getting into."

Madison attempted to qualify for Boston by running a marathon in Tupelo, Miss., in early September. On a steamy day, with his prosthetic leg just not fitting right, Madison reached mile 25 in 5 hours, 45 minutes. Told the cutoff time was six hours, he decided to call it an afternoon.

Turns out, there was no cutoff time.

"Jeff was so mad. He's like, 'I told you to finish,'" chuckled Madison, a former police officer who's now an attorney.

A month later, Madison ran a marathon in St. Louis and crossed the line in 5:43 to earn his spot at the start line for Boston.

"What I learned is I'm the only one who can prevent me from achieving things," Madison said. "I've achieved the goal of getting to Boston. The next goal is crossing the finish line."

With Glasbrenner leading the way, of course, eager to finish what he started.

AP Sports Writer Pat Graham reported from Denver.

HIGH SCHOOLS: DODDS-EUROPE

Game of the week

Baseball: Kaiserslautern at Alconbury, Saturday

The Raiders have already earned two victories and plated 38 runs this spring. But one could argue this set of games marks the true beginning of its season.

With its eyes on a run at the Division I European champion, Kaiserslautern on Saturday will encounter one of the teams standing in its way. The host Lancers are also 2-0 — though their March wins over Division II AFNORTH came harder than the Raiders' routs of Division II Baumholder

— and are looking to build on last year's strong third-place tournament showing.

If either squad hopes to disrupt the annual Ramstein-Patch party in the season's final game, a Saturday sweep would be a good start. Kaiserslautern packs a potent lineup featuring Lukas Amrhein, Elijah Martin and Kilian Knight; the Lancers are led by returning varsity players Ben Ciero and Matt Brinker.



MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

Patch's Mallory Flynn, right, stops Ramstein's Shannon Guffey from centering the ball during last season's Division I final at the DODDS-Europe soccer championships in Kaiserslautern, Germany, won by Patch, 1-0. The two teams face each other Friday afternoon in Ramstein, Germany.

Three more key matchups

Boys soccer Hohenfels at Bitburg Friday

Both owning a losing overall record due to a rigorous pre-break schedule against larger competition, the Division II Tigers and Barons take the field Friday in search of a fresh start.

Bitburg has had it the worst, opening its season with losses to local Division I powers Ramstein and Wiesbaden. But the Barons had their moments in those games. They lost to Ramstein by a respectable 4-2 score, and trailed Wiesbaden 2-0 at halftime before the Warriors pulled away for a 5-0 win.

Bitburg replaced moral victories with a scoreboard victory on April 3, its last game before spring break and the first against a divisional opponent. The Barons trounced Baumholder 11-1.

Hohenfels' 1-2 season has followed a similar trajectory. The Tigers took losses to Division II contender Black Forest Academy and Division I foe Vilsack in March, losing the latter game 3-2 on a heartbreaking late goal. It joined Bitburg in the win column on April 3 with a 5-1 rout of Schweinfurt.

A tough schedule awaits both teams after this weekend. Bitburg moves on to BFA and Kaiserslautern, while Hohenfels has a date with Patch. Friday's winner will enter that stretch run with some needed confidence.

Girls soccer Ansbach at Baumholder Friday Hohenfels at Baumholder Saturday

In just six halves of soccer, the Baumholder girls have gone through nearly everything there is to experience on a soccer field.

First there was the familiar feeling of playing out of one's league, as the small Division II school fell behind 4-0 to Division I power Kaiserslautern.

Next was the elation of fighting out of a seemingly insurmountable deficit. The Bucs rallied against that deficit, pulled even and forced the Raiders into a 4-4 tie.

That euphoria gave way to a let-down. Black Forest Academy efficiently shut down the Bucs a week later, handing the upstart team a discouraging 2-0 loss.

But even that valley led to a peak. On April 3, the Bucs earned their first win of the season in shutout style, beating Bitburg 7-0.

With just four games left in their regular season, this weekend's games could provide a better idea of just how good the Bucs are. Wins over the Cougars and Tigers would ensure a .500 season, with Division I Ramstein and Wiesbaden lurking on the schedule.

Softball Kaiserslautern at Alconbury Friday

Alconbury, last year's Division III European champion since promoted to the Division II ranks, made some early noise on its new level with a pair of impressive wins over established Division II power AFNORTH on March 29. This weekend brings the opportunity to make an even bigger statement.

Division I contender Kaiserslautern will make the trip to the island on Friday in hopes of knocking the Dragons from the ranks of the unbeaten. The two, along with fellow Western Region rivals Lakenheath, Ramstein and SHAPE, come out of spring break with unblemished records, some of which will fall over the next two weeks as the teams begin to play each other. The Raiders will visit fellow Division I school Lakenheath to complete their U.K. swing on Saturday.

But the Raiders, though stocked with hard hitters like Megan Schultz, Nina Knight and Tori Liggins, would be remiss to overlook Alconbury. The Dragons lost a lot of key players from last year's team, but returnee Emily Luong headlines a young and hungry team that has already proven itself a contender.

Division I soccer teams square off

Matchups may preview tournament

By GREGORY BROOME
Stars and Stripes

With its teams playing sat-sat-sat schedules against mostly non-divisional opponents, it's been difficult to get a handle on DODDS-Europe Division I soccer this spring. That begins to change this weekend.

Five of the division's six schools will be in action against each other Friday and Saturday, playing a set of eight combined boys and girls games that should amount to a revealing preview of next month's Division I tournament. Patch visits Ramstein and Vilsack visits Wiesbaden on Friday; Wiesbaden heads to Patch and Kaiserslautern hosts Vilsack on Saturday.

The main event of the weekend's impressive slate takes place Friday at Ramstein: a rematch between the defending European girls champion Patch Panthers, and the team they beat for that title, the homestanding Royals.

The two programs have played tug-of-war with the European crown for a half-decade. Patch yanked it back last year with a 1-0 title-game triumph, avenging the 1-0 Ramstein win that gave the Royals the 2012 championship. Ramstein's 2012 win broke a two-year streak of Patch titles, the latter of which came at the Royals' expense. Including Ramstein's 2009 win over Patch, the Panthers and Royals have played each other in four of the last five European championship games, with each team winning two of those games.

Regardless of what happens Friday, the teams are good bets to renew that rivalry in this year's tournament final. Both teams bring 2-0 records into the game, and neither has allowed a single goal.

Wiesbaden might have something to say about that, however. The Warriors have been equally impressive in building their own early 2-0 record.

The boys side of the schedule holds no such established power structure. With defending champion International School of Brussels rebuilding and 2013 runner-up Heidelberg shut down, the path is clear for a new champion. And there is no shortage of applicants.

Ramstein made a major statement April 3 against Kaiserslautern in the season's first matchup between two Division I teams. The Royals scored in the opening seconds, added points just before and just after halftime and tacked on an insurance goal late in a wire-to-wire 4-0 drubbing.

Patch has only had one varsity game so far, but piled up several games' worth of offense in a 12-0 rout of Ansbach on March 22.

Wiesbaden survived a season-opening scare to edge Black Forest Academy 1-0, and followed it up with a less anxious 5-0 win over Bitburg to preserve a season-long shutout. Vilsack's inexperienced team, meanwhile, puts a 2-0 start on the line in the first Division I varsity action many of the new-look team's players will have experienced.

All told, this weekend features the most intra-Division I competition during the regular season. Each of the remaining three active weekends before the tournament's May 19 start pack just one Division I doubleheader apiece.

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Schedule

Soccer

Patch at Ramstein
Ansbach at Baumholder
Vilsack at Wiesbaden
Hohenfels at Bitburg
Saturday
Lakenheath at Merwitt Hill
Wiesbaden at Patch
Ansbach at Bitburg
Vilsack at Kaiserslautern
Hohenfels at Baumholder
Naples at Aviano

Baseball/softball

Friday
Kaiserslautern at Alconbury
Baumholder at Hohenfels
Saturday
Kaiserslautern at Kaiserslautern
Baumholder at Ansbach
Vilsack at Patch
Wiesbaden at Bitburg

Track and field

Saturday
Lakenheath, Alconbury, AF-NORTH, SHAPE at Brussels
Ramstein, Bitburg, Baumholder, Kaiserslautern at Wiesbaden
Hohenfels, Bamberg, Schweinfurt, Ansbach, Patch at Vilsack
Aviano, Naples, Signona, AQSR, Marymount at Vicenza



Follow the action

Gregory Broome has
the latest on Twitter
@broomestripes

HIGH SCHOOLS: DODDS-PACIFIC

Schedule

Japan
Boys soccer
Friday, April 18
 Kinnick and Yokota at Edgren,
 King at Daegu, Zama at Perry

Girls soccer
Friday, April 18
 Kinnick and Yokota at Edgren,
 King at Daegu, Zama at Perry
Saturday, April 19
 Sacred Heart at St. Maur
Tuesday, April 22
 Yokota at Kinnick, ASU at YIS
Thursday, April 24
 Seisen at ASU

Baseball
Friday, April 18
Saturday, April 19
 DODDS-Japan tournament at
 Zama

Saturday, April 19
 IS Brussels at St. Mary's
Tuesday, April 22
 Yokota at Zama
Wednesday, April 23
 Yokota at Kinnick
Thursday, April 24
 ASU at Zama

Softball
Friday, April 18
Saturday, April 19
 DODDS-Japan tournament at
 Yokota

Track and field
Saturday, April 19
 Kanto International schools and
 DODDS at Oi Futō Pier Ground,
 Tokyo

South Korea
Soccer
Friday, April 18
 Osan and King at Daegu, Seoul
 American at Humphreys
Saturday, April 19
 SA and King at Daegu
Monday, April 21
 TCI at Osan
Wednesday, April 23
 Yi-Seoul at TCI, SF at SA
 End of regular season

Baseball
Saturday, April 19
 SA and Daegu at Osan
Wednesday, April 23
 Humphreys at SA

Softball
Saturday, April 19
 SA and Daegu at Osan
Wednesday, April 23
 Humphreys at SA

Track and field
Saturday, April 19
 DODDS-Korea and international
 schools at Humphreys



Dave
Ornauer

Pacific sportsblog
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 frequent updates
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Okinawa
Boys soccer
Saturday, April 19
 Kadena vs. Oruku and Tomigu-
 suku Minami at Naha
 Kubasaki at Okinawa Christian
Wednesday, April 23
 Kadena at OCI

Girls soccer
Saturday, April 19
 Yomei at Kadena
Wednesday, April 23
 OCI at Kadena
Thursday, April 24
 Kubasaki at OCI
Saturday, April 26
 Shuri Higashi at Kadena

Track and field
Saturday, April 19
 Zion Christian, OCI Kadena and
 Kubasaki at Chatan Stadium, 9
 a.m.

Thursday, April 24
 Zion Christian, OCI and Kadena
 at Kubasaki, 3:30 a.m.

Golf
Thursday, April 17
 Kadena vs. Kubasaki at Taiyo
 Golf Course, Gushikawa, 3 p.m.

End of regular season
Postseason
Okinawa Athletics and Activities
Council district golf finals
Wednesday, April 23
 Kubasaki vs. Kadena at Banyan
 Tree

Softball
Thursday, April 24
 Kadena at Kubasaki

Guam
Boys volleyball
 (matches begin at 5:30 p.m.
 except where noted)
Saturday, April 19
 JFK at George Washington, St.
 Paul at St. John's, Southern at
 Simon Sanchez

Monday, April 21
 Notre Dame at Harvest Christian
Tuesday, April 22
 Harvest Christian at JFK, GW vs.
 St. Paul, St. John's at Simon San-
 chez, Southern at Guam
Wednesday, April 23
 Okkodo at ND

Girls soccer
Saturday, April 19
 Southern vs. St. Thomas, ND at
 JFK, OLG at Okkodo, Simon San-
 chez at St. Paul, HCA at GW

Wednesday, April 23
 JFK vs. Our Lady of Guam at
 Wettengel, St. Paul at Okkodo
Thursday, April 24
 Southern vs. Simon Sanchez at
 Okkodo, St. Thomas at Harvest
 Christian, Guam vs. Notre Dame at
 Leo Palace 2

EJ King taking act on road

By DAVE ORNAUER

Stars and Stripes

Call E.J. King's spring sports teams the "Road Warriors."

That's because the next two weekends will see the Cobras' baseball, softball and soccer teams log some serious air miles, for visits to Daegu in Korea and DODDS-Japan tournaments in the Kanto Plain.

DODDS-Japan baseball began Thursday at Camp Zama, while softball is begin played at Yokota. Each continues through Saturday, with a forecast of rain for Friday morning.

Meanwhile, at Kelly Field in Daegu's Camp Walker, Cobras soccer will take to the pitch against Daegu's Warriors, Osan and Seoul American on Friday and Saturday. The teams will flip-flop next week, soccer to the Kanto Plain (Yokota and Zama) and softball and baseball to Daegu.

King is the lone DODDS-Japan school to ferry teams to Korea in the regular season, something done to save money in DODDS' cost-conscious mentality, athletics director Charles Strobino said.

"It's cheaper to send teams to Korea," Strobino said, adding that since DODDS no longer flies teams to Sasebo to play the Cobras in most all sports, "we're the ones on the road more often."

King is scheduled to host two soccer competitions this season. One was last month against Zama; the next is on May 10 against Matthew C. Perry.

The travel is not so hard "so much as it is hard to leave my class with a substitute" during such trips, Strobino said, but students and teachers out of class is the "nature of DODDS sports," especially in Japan, where DODDS schools are spread over more than 1,500 miles.

At the northern end of Japan's main Honshu island, the snow has melted and Robert D. Edgren will host the first of its only two athletics competitions this season, with Yokota's and Nile C. Kinnick's soccer teams as the Eagles' guests. Zama soccer visits Perry's weekend.

Seoul American and Humphreys take to the pitch on Friday with one eye on the air-quality monitors; Wednesday's entire soccer slate was postponed due to air-quality issues. This is the last weekend of Korea's regular season; postseason tournaments are next weekend.

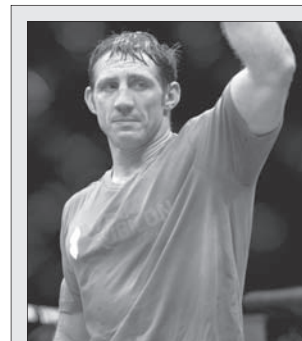
Game of the week

Soccer: EJ King, Osan, and Seoul American at Daegu

When: 1:30, 3, 4:30 and 6 p.m. Friday and 9 and 10:30 a.m. and noon and 1:30 p.m. Saturday.

Where: Carroll Field at Camp Carroll on Friday and Kelly Field on Camp Walker on Saturday.

What: Only regular-season inter-district competition between DODDS-Korea and DODDS-Japan soccer teams on the schedule. As a cost-cutting measure, DODDS flies E.J. King to Daegu, at far less expense than it would have to pay for flights to the Tokyo area or Misawa, where other DODDS-Japan teams are based. It's also a chance to finally pick up



JACQUES BOISSINOT, THE CANADIAN PRESS/AP

Army vet tops Bisping

Tim Kennedy of the United States celebrates his victory over Michael Bisping, of England, Wednesday at UFC Fight Night in Quebec City, Quebec.

Okinawa soccer teams see action Saturday: Kadena's boys playing two matches in Naha, Kubasaki traveling to Okinawa Christian International and Kadena's girls hosting Yomei.

Three track and field meets are on tap Saturday: Okinawa's schools at Chatan Stadium near American Village, Japan's at Oi Pier Ground near Tokyo International Airport and Korea's at Camp Humphreys.

On the diamonds, Seoul American and Osan's baseball and softball team will visit Osan on Saturday for a round-robin series.

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Three more key matchups

Baseball/Softball
Friday-Saturday
at Zama/Yokota

DODDS Japan baseball and softball tournaments, Friday and Saturday, baseball at Camp Zama's Rambler Field and softball at Yokota High's Headley Field. Six teams each take the field for the second and third days of a three-day competition; Nile C. Kinnick is defending each title.

Track & Field
Okinawa
at Chatan Stadium
(American Village)

Okinawa's fourth of six meets, 9 a.m. Saturday and, for the first time this season, held off-base at Chatan Stadium, near American Village. It will be the first to feature fully automated timing.

Soccer
Zama vs.
Matthew C. Perry
at Misawa Air Base

Zama at Matthew C. Perry, 4:30 p.m. Friday and 10:45 a.m. Saturday. Second of two regular-season meetings that some observers have called a preview of the Far East Division II Tournament championship match next month at Misawa Air Base, Japan.

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NHL PLAYOFFS



CHUCK MYERS/MCT

Boston center Patrice Bergeron finished with a career-best plus-38 and scored 30 goals for the second time in his career.

Bruins' Bergeron gets charge from Olympics

The Associated Press

FOR Boston Bruins center Patrice Bergeron, the 2014 Olympics were about more than winning a second gold medal with Canada.

The Sochi Games were a confidence boost that he harnessed when he returned to perhaps the best of his 10 NHL seasons. The top-seeded Bruins need Bergeron to maintain his outstanding play when they face the eighth-seeded Detroit Red Wings in their first-round playoff series beginning Friday night.

"It's the best I've seen him, period," Bruins general manager Peter Chiarelli said. "He started maybe as the 13th forward over there in Sochi, and everyone saw what he can do, and he was basically on the top line at the end."

"It helped his pace. It helped his tempo, and you know you see him shoot the puck better this year. He's had a terrific year. And, of course, the whole two-way component of his game is so good. It's always good. It's not by accident you hear his name in the Hart Trophy conversation. That doesn't surprise me at all."

While it's a long shot that Bergeron will even be among the finalists for MVP this season, he is a favorite to win the Selke Trophy as the league's best defensive forward for the second time.

His plus-38 was a career-best, and he finished third in the NHL in faceoff percentage at 58.6. Without losing any of his defensive reliability, Bergeron also became an offensive force. His 30 goals tied Jarome Iginla for the team lead and marked the second time he reached that

level in his career. He scored 31 goals in 2005-06 but was only a plus-3 that season.

Bergeron agreed the Olympics gave him more faith in his ability to add offensive punch to his high-caliber defensive game.

"I think it helped. Even last time it helped me in 2010 (at the Vancouver Olympics)," he said Wednesday. "I think it always helps you when you play with such great players and on a big stage like that."

A prime example of Bergeron's leadership came the last time he and the Bruins were on the ice for a playoff game. In a Game 6 loss that clinched last year's Stanley Cup for the Chicago Blackhawks, he played with a cracked rib, punctured lung and separated shoulder. He was taken to a hospital immediately after the game.

Patrice Bergeron

Bruins center

Now mostly healthy, Bergeron hopes for a lengthy postseason run by the Bruins, who won the Presidents' Trophy for the best regular-season record. They've also been the higher seeded the past three seasons, but they've been pushed to seven games in the opening round each time. They beat the Montreal Canadiens at the start of their run to the 2011 Stanley Cup championship and defeated the Toronto Maple Leafs last season.

But the Bruins lost to the Washington Capitals in 2012.

Scoreboard

First round

(Best-of-seven)
x-if necessary
EASTERN CONFERENCE
Detroit vs. Boston

Friday: at Boston
Tuesday: at Detroit
Thursday, April 24: at Detroit
x-Saturday, April 26: at Boston
x-Monday, April 28: at Detroit
x-Wednesday, April 30: at Boston
Montreal 1, Tampa Bay 6
Wednesday: Montreal 5, Tampa Bay 4, OT
Friday: at Tampa Bay
Tuesday: at Montreal
x-Thursday, April 24: at Tampa Bay
x-Friday, April 25: at Montreal
x-Tuesday, April 29: at Tampa Bay
Pittsburgh 1, Columbus 0
Wednesday: Pittsburgh 4, Columbus 3
Saturday: at Pittsburgh
Monday: at Columbus
x-Wednesday, April 23: at Columbus
x-Thursday, April 24: at Pittsburgh
x-Monday, April 28: at Columbus
x-Wednesday, April 30: at Pittsburgh
Philadelphia at N.Y. Rangers
Thursday: at N.Y. Rangers
Sunday: at N.Y. Rangers
Tuesday: at Philadelphia
Friday, April 25: at Philadelphia
x-Sunday, April 27: at N.Y. Rangers
x-Thursday, April 28: at Philadelphia
x-Wednesday, April 30: at N.Y. Rangers

WESTERN CONFERENCE
Minnesota vs. Colorado
Thursday: at Colorado
Saturday: at Colorado
Monday: at Minnesota
Thursday, April 24: at Minnesota
x-Saturday, April 26: at Colorado
x-Monday, April 28: at Minnesota
x-Wednesday, April 30: at Colorado
Chicago vs. St. Louis
Thursday: at St. Louis
Saturday: at St. Louis
Monday: at Chicago
Wednesday, April 23: at Chicago
x-Friday, April 25: at St. Louis
x-Sunday, April 27: at Chicago
x-Tuesday, April 29: at St. Louis
Anaheim 1, Dallas 0
Wednesday: Anaheim 4, Dallas 3
Friday: at Anaheim, 10 p.m.
Monday: at Dallas
Wednesday, April 23: at Dallas
x-Friday, April 25: at Anaheim
x-Sunday, April 27: at Dallas
x-Tuesday, April 29: at Anaheim
Los Angeles vs. San Jose
Thursday: at San Jose
Saturday: at San Jose
Tuesday, April 22: at Los Angeles
x-Thursday, April 24: at Los Angeles
x-Saturday, April 26: at San Jose
x-Monday, April 28: at Los Angeles
x-Wednesday, April 30: at San Jose

Blues put big hopes in Miller

By R.B. FALLSTROM
The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Exactly as advertised, Ryan Miller came to the St. Louis Blues and the goals-against number went down.

Until the Blues started losing bodies. They're hoping to get everyone on a lengthy injury list back sometime in the first round of the playoffs against the rival Chicago Blackhawks, and help Miller again be the cool, calm save machine they assumed they'd acquired. The Blues, who had been contending for the Presidents' Trophy before their late-season fade, opened Thursday at home as the No. 3 seed in the Western Conference against the defending Stanley Cup champions.

Miller won his first four starts and seven of eight after the Blues, billing him as the improvement they needed to make a deep run, acquired him from Buffalo. He finished 0-5 with a 3.82 goals-against average and woeful .856 save percentage.

Preparing for his first postseason since 2010-11, Miller said the raw numbers make everything look a lot worse than it's been.

"I feel like I'm in a pretty good place, honestly," Miller said. "I know people probably will take that and just chop it up and laugh about it, but I feel pretty good. I can compete."

The Los Angeles Kings eliminated the Blues the previous two seasons behind brilliant play from Jonathan Quick, reason enough to break up the Jaroslav Halak-Brian Elliott tandem. The day he made the deal, general manager Doug Armstrong acknowledged the franchise sought that extra little bit of help.

Miller hasn't won since shutting out the Stars on April 1 and in his last 11 times out, minus key personnel in the lineup, the opposition has scored three or more goals nine times. Miller is another question mark on a franchise that's short on playoff success.

"There's always going to be things that make you doubt what can happen, there's going to be things that make you believe in the worst kind of situations, that you're not going to be able to do it," Miller said. "But this group and our fans and everybody around us need to understand we're going to have to have perseverance and have to have a good attitude about facing those situations and doing it the right way."



LM OTERA/AP

St. Louis goalie Ryan Miller, right, finished the regular season 0-5 after the Blues acquired him from Buffalo.

NHL PLAYOFFS



JOHN WOODS, THE CANADIAN PRESS/AP

In his first season behind the bench, Hall of Fame goaltender Patrick Roy guided Colorado to a franchise-record 52 wins and the Central Division championship.

Roy makes correct moves in first year

By PAT GRAHAM
The Associated Press

Patrick Roy's fiery personality was on full display in the opening game when the Colorado coach got into a heated exchange with Anaheim, banging his hands again and again on the glass partition until it tilted.

That eruption set a tone for the season: The Avalanche weren't going to be pushovers.

Not with the combustible Hall of Fame goaltender taking over behind the bench.

Roy guided this franchise — the one he led to two Stanley Cup titles as a player — back into the playoffs by tying a team record with 52 wins. They played Minnesota in a first-round series that began Thursday.

"Patrick is the ultimate winner. He doesn't accept anything less than winning," backup goaltender Jean-Sebastien Giguere said. "He did that as a player and he's doing that as a coach."

"He does that when he plays golf, he does that when he plays cards, he does everything to win. And that has really translated our team. He changed the whole mentality in this room, and it shows every time we

go out on the ice. We play to win, so it's fun to see that."

As for that volatile temper, the players insist they rarely see it inside the locker room — not after a bad period or a tough loss. This is their team, Roy said from the day he was brought on board, and he was there more for support than to scold. He was partnering with them, not ruling them with an iron fist.

The breathing room allowed the youthful Avalanche to make some mistakes and learn from them.

"They need to have someone who they can come up to and talk," said Roy, who's the fifth coach in NHL history to win 50 or more games in his first season. "It's their system."

Roy has been a little unorthodox in running the team: From pulling his goalie with two, three, sometimes four minutes remaining if they're down a goal to assembling them at center ice after a practice and having them all yell "team" at the same time.

"If we want to be different than we've been in past years, then we have to do things differently," captain Gabriel Landeskog said. "It's been great to see his point of view on things. You see the team that we are. You see the team that we've become."

Eye: Several goalies have a chance to carry their teams a long way

FROM BACK PAGE

for Dallas, but his playoff experience is minimal. Philadelphia's Steve Mason is in that category, too.

With the suspense out of the way, here are six candidates with the potential to be that next impenetrable presence between the pipes over the next two months:

1 Sergei Bobrovsky: The 25-year-old Russian known affectionately as "Bob" has helped steer Columbus to the playoffs for just the second time in franchise history. Bobrovsky had five shutouts and was ninth in the NHL this season with his .923 save percentage. The Pittsburgh Penguins pose a significant challenge as the opening opponent, but Bobrovsky has stolen many games for the Blue Jackets.

2 Jonathan Quick: There's no need to know more than this: Two years ago, Quick won the Conn Smythe Trophy after yielding just 29 goals in 20 playoff games for the Los Angeles Kings on the way to their first title.

3 Jimmy Howard: The Detroit Red Wings stretched their remarkable streak of making the playoffs to 23 straight years, but they're lined up in the bracket against the mighty Boston Bruins. With Howard minding the net, maybe this banged-up bunch can pull off the upset. Top seeds falling in the first round, after all, are hardly

historic NHL moments. The U.S. Olympic team member made 35 saves in a 3-2 win on April 2 over Boston, the defending Eastern Conference champion and winner of the 2011 Stanley Cup. Perhaps that planted a seed of doubt in the minds of the Bruins.

4 Semyon Varlamov: Just like his Hall of Fame coach Patrick Roy, Varlamov has the makings to carry a team a long way if his young and potent forwards aren't faded. One of the Vezina Trophy front-runners, Varlamov led the league with 41 victories and was third with a .927 save percentage.

5 Ilya Bryzgalov: One of four goalies to play at least 12 games for Minnesota this season, Bryzgalov was fetched at the trade deadline for a fourth-round draft pick. He has a spotty track record in playoffs past with Phoenix and Philadelphia, but he came through when the Wild needed him most, posting a 7-3-1 record and 2.12 goals-against average since his acquisition from Edmonton.

6 Anders Lindback: Lindback left some shaky earlier performances behind him by going 3-0 with a 0.67 goals-against average over the final three games to help Tampa Bay lock up home-ice advantage for the first round against the Montreal Canadiens. This is Ben Bishop's job, having set a Lightning record with 37 wins, but he hurt his elbow last week, leaving the job to Lindback.



CHRIS O'MEARA/AP

Tampa Bay goalie Anders Lindback, left, moves to his right but can't stop Montreal left wing Thomas Vanek from scoring Wednesday during the third period of Game 1 of the teams' first-round playoff series in Tampa, Fla. Lindback stopped 39 of 44 shots but Montreal won 5-4 in overtime.

SPORTS

NHL PLAYOFFS

Heating up

Keep an eye on these goalies

By DAVE CAMPBELL
The Associated Press

The NHL playoffs have arrived, which means it's time for the goalies to get going.

As simplistic as the adage can be, predictions of the Stanley Cup champion often tilt toward the guy in the crease producing the biggest saves of the spring. Hoisting the hallowed trophy is hard to do without a hot goalie.

So who are the ones to watch this time?

Corey Crawford was the winner last year with Chicago, so let's skip him. League-leading Boston, with the stel-

lar Tuukka Rask in goal, is probably too obvious.

Similarly, we'll pass over other top-five seeds with well-established netminders who finished among the league leaders this season: Pittsburgh and Marc-Andre Fleury, the New York Rangers and Henrik Lundqvist, and Montreal's Carey Price.

Some of the bigger names struggled toward the end and aren't taking much momentum into the playoffs: Anaheim's Jonas Hiller, St. Louis' Ryan Miller and San Jose's Antti Niemi.

Kari Lehtonen had a strong season
SEE EYE ON PAGE 63

Columbus goalie Sergei Bobrovsky is 32-20-5 this season, but lost his only start against first-round playoff opponent Pittsburgh.

LYNNE SLADKY/AP

Inside:

- Roy makes right moves in first season, Page 63
- Olympics give boost to Bruins' Bergeron, Page 62

Amputee runner has unfinished business
Boston Marathon, Pages 58-59

Exciting finishes set playoff matchups
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